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ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

WE GO WHERE THEY GO: When fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring or staying away from them. ***Never let the nazis have the streets!***

WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK: This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we rely on ourselves to protect ourselves & stop the fascists.

NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS: In ARA, we have different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement, an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, class exploitation, repression, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a classless society. **WE INTEND TO WIN!**

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Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

TURNING THE TIDE

The Power of the People is the Force of Life! Never Surrender!

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GIs Resist War – Then … and Now

By Susan Galleymore

Resistance comes in many forms: passive and active, individual and collective, organized and unorganized, violent and non-violent, and more. Our world offers examples of all of these…if we seek them. One of the best-kept secrets of our times is GI resistance against the Vietnam War. It took place in barracks and on aircraft carriers, in army stockades, navy brigs, and the towns around military bases. It penetrated West Point, spread through the battlefields and by 1971 had "infested the entire armed services." Like the resistance developing today, it began with a few heroic individuals who were willing to stand up and express the questions and understandings that the war was generating among those sent to fight it.

Until the film, *Sir, No Sir*, most Americans had forgotten or never heard about GI resistance to *that* war. Today, there's budding GI resistance to *this* war, the so-called Endless Global War on Terror. It hasn't blossomed fully yet, but the ground is fertile and the roots are deep. Indicators suggest it will be active, individual, non-violent … and persistent. GIs in growing numbers are saying "no" to illegal war, refusing to deploy, and leaving their bases.

Official Pentagon numbers state that about 40,000 troops from all branches of the military have gone Absent without Leave (AWOL) or UA (Unexcused Absence) since 2000. Unofficial numbers are much higher: counselors at GI Rights Hotline (1-800-394-9544) report that over 75% of the calls they answer concern troops already AWOL/UA or about to go AWOL/UA. In 2005 alone, the Hotline answered over 38,000 calls.

AWOL and UA describe service member resistance: Soldiers (in the Army, National Guard, and Individual Ready Reserve) "go AWOL;" Marines, Sailors, or Airmen (in the Navy, USAF or USMC) "go UA." Initially, none is a "deserter," as this describes service members who never intends to turn themselves back in to the military. AWOLs and UAs fully intend to turn themselves back into the military – within the time period required by the military branch. While many nuances pertain, the distinction between AWOL/UA and deserter is not mere semantics: the maximum penalty for desertion during wartime is execution.

If it's impossible to describe all the reasons why troops go AWOL/UA, it is possible to highlight a common theme: incompatibility with the military institution. By the time they go AWOL/UA, most service members have exhausted the military's processes for redress -- with little success. Most find the AWOL/UA option worth the risk.

A few of the current GI resisters include the following brave people (listed alphabetically):

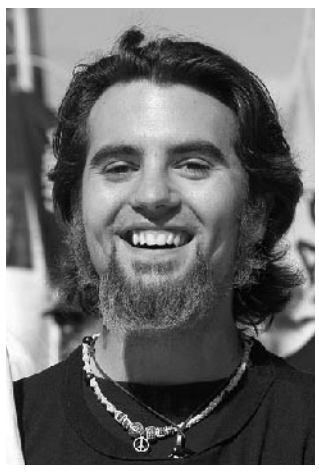
Agustin Aguayo, 1st Armored Division

After a year as a medic in Iraq, Agustin applied for Conscientious Objector status, and was refused. When he was threatened with forced return to the combat zone, he went AWOL, then turned himself in. He was returned to his base in Germany to face court martial. Agustin stated, "I have come to believe that it is wrong to destroy life, that it is wrong to use war, that it is immoral, and that I can no longer go down this path. Because I have taken this stand, I am free even though my body will probably be locked up. This is something I can live with. Something I can't live with is being a participant of war."

You can send donations to support his family via paypal to HelgaAguayo@aol.com
or by check or money order
to: Helga Aguayo, 36838 57th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552.
Learn more: www.AguayoDefense.org

Darrel Anderson, 1st Armored Division

After 7 months in Baghdad, Darrel was wounded by a roadside bomb. He witnessed US troops abuse and kill civilians. He refused to fire on an automobile containing civilians. He concluded that the war is wrong. With the possibility of a second deployment to Iraq and at the urging of his conscience, he fled to Canada. Recently returned to the US, Darrel received an "other than honorable" discharge (OTH) without court martial. Darrel stated, "Fellow resisters … if we stay strong, stand our ground, speak the truth, and stand up for what's right we will always be free."



You can send a tax-deductible contribution to help with Darrell's expenses. Make your check out to 'CKCPJ,' mark it for 'Darrell Anderson Legal Expense Fund' or 'Darrell Anderson Family Expense Fund.' Mail it to: Central Kentucky Council for Peace & Justice, P.O. Box 363, Lexington, KY 40536-0363. Learn more: http://www.peaceandjusticeky.org/DAnderson.htm

Sgt. Kevin Benderman, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division

Kevin applied for C.O. status after a year in Iraq during which he witnessed homes bombed and people begging for food and drinking water from mud puddles. He saw the arm of an 8 or 9 year-old girl burned up to her shoulder and heard the executive officer say the unit could not help as medical supplies were limited. Kevin refused a second tour to Iraq. He was court-martialed and spent 15 months in jail. Amnesty International declared him a prisoner of conscience. Kevin stated, "We kill people in the name of keeping the peace – an oxymoron if there ever was one. After months of contemplation I concluded I no longer wanted to contribute to the ultimate violence toward other human beings that war is."

You can write to him: Kevin Benderman, c/o Benderman Defense, PO Box 2322, Hinesville, GA 31310. Learn more: http://www.bendermantimeline.com/

Sgt. Ricky Clousing, Army Interrogator

Ricky served as an Army Interrogator in Iraq in 2004 and 2005. Attached to tactical infantry units during daily patrols, he learned what civilians thought of coalition forces. He witnessed baseless incarceration and physical harassment of civilians, an innocent Iraqi killed by US troops, and abuse of power with no accountability. Ricky pled guilty to being AWOL and was sentenced to three months confinement, forfeiture of 2/3 pay while confined, and a bad conduct discharge (BCD). Ricky stated, "My experiences in Iraq forced me to reevaluate my beliefs and ethics. Ultimately, I felt I could not serve. I'd rather spend a year in jail than participate in an illegal war and be part of the machine suppressing Iraq."

Learn more: http://www.sdmcc.org/rickyclousing/_ You can also contact IVAW (Iraq Veterans Against the War) at P.O. Box 8296, Philadelphia, PA 19101, 215.241.7123 or at ivaw@ivaw.org

Spc. Suzanne Swift, Military Police

Stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington and deployed to Iraq in 2004 and 2005, Suzanne was sexually harassed and assaulted by superiors. She suffered a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) breakdown and went AWOL rather than subject herself to the horrors she experienced during her first tour of duty. Suzanne was arrested at her mother's home in June 2006. She will face special court martial for the charges of AWOL and "missing movement". Suzanne stated, "When you are over there, you are lower than dirt; you are expendable as a soldier in general, and as a woman, it's worse."

Learn more about Suzanne's case: www.SuzanneSwift.org or write to Friends of Suzanne, P.O. Box 51584, Eugene, OR 97405

First Lt. Ehren Watada, US Army

Ehren is the first US commissioned officer to refuse to deploy to the Iraq war and occupation. Charged with "contemptuous words" towards President Bush and conduct unbecoming an officer, he faces over seven years in military prison. Ehren's is the first military persecution of an objector for First Amendment speech since 1965. Ehren stated, "I [have] a radical idea… born from the very concept of American service: to stop an illegal and unjust war, the soldiers can choose to stop fighting. [This] is not easy…Soldiers must be aware that they are being used for ill-gain. They must hold themselves responsible for individual action. They must remember that duty to the Constitution and the people supersedes the ideologies of their leadership. Soldiers must be willing to face ostracism, worry over the survival of their families, and loss of personal freedom. But they must also know that resisting an authoritarian government at home is equally important to fighting a foreign aggressor on the battlefield. Finally, those wearing the uniform must know beyond a shadow of doubt that by refusing immoral and illegal orders they'll be supported by the people not with mere words but by action."

Lt. Ehren Watada's vision is one of radical American heroism. Will his words stimulate GI resistance to war similar to that of the Vietnam War? Learn more: www.thankyoult.org or by calling (866) 797-0967. You can send a donation to: Hawaii People's Fund, Attn: Lt. Watada Defense Fund, 810 N. Vineyard Blvd., Honolulu HI 96817-3590.

Meanwhile, service members will continue to resist actively, individually, non-violently and with dogged persistence.

Susan Galleymore is a "military mom" and a core member of *Courage to Resist* who supports the troops that refuse to fight.

Courage to Resist
484 Lakepark Ave. # 41
Oakland, CA 94610
(510) 764-2073
www.couragetoresist.org

DAYS OF ACTION IN SUPPORT OF GI RESISTANCE & RIGHTS! DECEMBER 8-10, 2006

by Lori Hurlbaus

We urge you to join us December 8-10th for a weekend of action in support of GI Resistance and GI rights. It's time for us to escalate public pressure and action in support of the growing movement of thousands of courageous men and women GI's who have in many different ways, followed their consciences, upheld international law, taken a principled stand against unjust, illegal war and occupation and stood up for their rights. Widespread public support and pressure will help create true support for courageous troops facing isolation and repression, and help protect their civil liberties and human rights.

We call for the following:

SUPPORT FOR WAR OBJECTORS
PROTECT THE RIGHT TO CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION
PROTECT LIBERTIES & HUMAN RIGHTS OF GI'S
SANCTUARY FOR WAR OBJECTORS

Objection by military service persons is a healthy and important assertion of democracy, particularly in a country where the decisions to invade, to maintain occupation, and to engage in widespread ongoing torture, human rights violations and war crimes are made undemocratically, in violation of the US Constitution and international law, and based on continuing lies and disinformation.

Showing widespread support for soldiers who resist is one of the best ways those of us outside the military can encourage the growing momentum of the GI resistance movement — a movement that has the direct power to end this war.

We ask you to begin mobilizing your group, community and networks now. As well as educating your organization's members, please consider hosting a public event. Download the organizing kit at http://www.CouragetoResist.org We will provide a updates and a down-loadable mobilizing and education kit: a flyer and poster with space for your local info/dates, a sample press release, background materials and audio visual and informational resources - everything you need for a teach in or public event.

TELL US ABOUT IT

BEFORE: Let us know what you're planning and we will post a list to inspire others, tell the media and build momentum! Send to: courage@riseup.net

AFTER: Don't forget to send pictures and reports from your local action! We will post reports to our website. Send to: courage@riseup.net

KEEP IT UP

Use this action to build momentum and CONTINUED SUPPORT for soldiers who have the courage to resist. You can do this by continuing to educate your community about the GI resistance movement and why support is crucial.

Join the many Canadians calling on the Canadian government to demonstrate its commitment to international law and the treaties to which it is a signatory, by making provision for US war objectors to have sanctuary in Canada. Let the Canadian people and Government know most US people oppose the war and many support the right to sanctuary for courageous war resisters. For more information about Canada's War Resisters Support Campaign go to www.resisters.ca

FIGHTING FASCISM FOR TWO DECADES

2007 will mark the 20th anniversary year of People Against Racist Terror (PART) – now Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles (ARA-LA). PART was founded by Michael Novick, a veteran of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee to call for an action against the Los Angeles-area appearance of convicted Birmingham church bomber J. B> Stoner, as part of a campaign by his "Crusade Against Corruption" to recruit the early nazi boneheads. At our first rally, 2-3000 showed up to protest a scheduled appearance by Stoner at the Glendale Public Library, which was canceled. We then marched over to the Glendale Holiday Inn, where Stoner supporters had booked a room for his appearance. When some arriving boneheads got the business end of a boot, the Glendale cops, who had already shut down the freeways to keep people away, declared the entire protest an illegal assembly, and brought out a water cannon to threaten and disperse the crowd. 2007 also marks the 20th year of publication of ***Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education,*** begun as a photocopied newsletter on PART's first anniversary to call attention to the revived trial of nazi Tom Metzger, against whom charges were reinstated on a 1993 triple-cross-burning in Sunland-Tujunga. (In the interim between the cross-burning and the trial 5 of Metzger's co-defendants in the LA cross-burning had become federal fugitives as part of the Order white supremacy underground). In the coming year, ARA-LA/PART will be holding a series of educational and fund-raising events to commemorate these significant milestones. We invite your participation. Call us at 310-495-0299, email us at antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com or write us at ARA-LA, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232. One way to join in is to take our a subscription, renewal, or gift sub to *Turning the Tide*: $16 for six bi-monthly issues; 2nd subscription at the same time only $15; 3rd for $12. Pay to Michael Novick.

WHITE PANTHER ORGANIZATION TO WORK IN TANDEM WITH NEW AFRIKAN BLACK PANTHER PARTY

Greetings, comrades

The decision has recently been made to form a White Panther Organization (WPO) to work in tandem with and under the leadership of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party-Prison Chapter. The purpose of the WPO is to provide a Panther-based means through which white brothers and sisterscan uphold the tradition of revolutionary abolitionist John Brown against white supremacy and racism, stand in the struggle of national liberation for Blacks, Latinos and other oppressed nationalities, and fight for proletarian revolution on an international scale.

The WPO is one of many organizations and groups in the United Front Against Imperialism which is seeking to end capitalist oppression and imperialist domination over the international proletariat. Our specific focus is to include whites everywhere in this world-wide struggle.

For those interested, write to the following address and request the White Panther Organization Manifesto, along with details for membership: WPO, PO Box 4362, Allentown PA 18105. I can also be reached for correspondenceat: Billy Johnson #322385, PO Box 549, Whiteville TN 38075. I can receive mail from other prisoners.

In the struggle,
Spider,
Spokesperson, White Panther Organization

DIRECT ACTION TO REBUILD NEW ORLEANS:

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The "Home for the Holidays" coalition is putting out a call, nation-wide, to bring volunteers to New Orleans, to gut houses in the 9th Ward.

Our goal is to help every family signed up for assistance to have their home gutted by the New Year!

Cleaning and gutting out flood-damaged homes is vital to the health and viability of a recovering New Orleans, and is the first step towards rebuilding for the homeowners.

The "Home for the Holidays" coalition is asking you, your family, your friends to come volunteer with us, to help bring the families of the 9th Ward back to New Orleans.

The "Home for the Holidays" coalition is a project of All Congregations Together, the People's Hurricane Relief Fund, and Common Ground Relief.

For more information, contact:

www.nolahomefortheholidays.org

nolahomefortheholidays@gmail.com

(504) 218-6613

Military Racists, Continued from p. 2

Extremist groups are not new to the military. With its report, SPLC presented a timeline with incidents dating back to the 1950's. A Ku Klux Klan group at Camp Pendleton in the mid-1970's harassed black Marines and civilians on base and in nearby Oceanside, beat a black child at a local beach, and burned a black Marine officer's car on base. Their actions sparked retaliation by black Marines in what came to be known as the Pendleton 14 case. [Editor's note: The Marines response was to transfer members of the klavern to other Marine bases in Texas and North Carolina, thus spreading the problem.] Investigations at the time found Klan and similar groups at a number of other bases in the US and Europe. Periodic discoveries of caches of stolen military weapons, linked to extremist groups, were made during the 1970's and 1980's.

In 1995, Americans were shocked to learn that Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma City bomber, was a decorated Gulf War veteran who met his accomplice while serving in the military. Also in 1995, two members of a skinhead group within the elite 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg were charged with the murder of a black couple off base in order to gain prestige within their group. About 19 other members of the group were discharged after an investigation disclosed that they saluted Nazi flags in their barracks, distributed neo-Nazi literature on base, and held drunken parties with blatant racist music on base. The racist group was organized by National Alliance member (and 82nd Airborne soldier) Robert Hunt. Among other things, he placed a billboard on the main road outside Ft Bragg with the Alliance's phone number and the words "Enough! Let's Start Taking Back America" on it.

In response to public pressure at the time, the military commissioned a study of "extremist" groups in the service. The study found extensive activity by racist and neo-Nazi organizations, and noted that "Young civilian extremists are encouraged by adult leaders to enlist in the military to gain access to weapons, training, and other military personnel." DoD also tightened existing regulations prohibiting active membership in extremist groups. The regs make it clear that such groups are prohibited. Commanders are given a wide range of options to respond to these groups, from court-martial for criminal activity to involuntary discharge for misconduct or unsatisfactory performance to poor performance evaluations. At the same time, they leave commands unclear about the implications of mere membership in such groups, and make it easy for ignorant or racist commands to ignore all but the most egregious incidents.

Unfortunately, the racism of military training and culture creates a strong environment for neo-Nazi and racist recruitment. While racial discrimination is officially forbidden, and the military praises itself as an equal opportunity employer, the fact remains that racism is deeply rooted in the ranks and in military leadership. Discrimination against people of color in promotions, assignments, punishments and less than honorable discharges have declined little since these disparities were brought to public attention decades ago. The threat of punishment for overt racial discrimination has simply led many enlisted personnel and officers to be less obvious in their racism. The same is true with activity in racist groups, which counsel their members to maintain low visibility in clothing, tattoos, etc., to avoid punishment or discharge.

The current and more explicit racism against our "enemies" is also comfortable ground for extremist groups. People identified as "ragheads" or "sand n-rs," described as subhuman in culture and morals, are more easily viewed as enemies, and more easily killed. It is no surprise that inspector Barfield speaks of Aryan Nation graffiti in Baghdad.

The problem of extremist groups in the military cannot be solved without changing its racist culture and without strict enforcement of existing regulations. Neither will occur unless the military faces on-going pressure from civil rights groups, the public, and Congress.

This article borrows heavily from the Southern Poverty Law Center report, "A Few Bad Men," written by David Holthouse, with contributions from Anthony Griggs, Joseph Roy, Sr., and Laurie Wood. It is available on SPLC's website and in their publication, Intelligence Report. The Center remains the single most important monitor of extremist activity within the military. For more information about this and other SPLC work, readers can contact the organization at 400 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36104; 1-888-414-7752. This article originally appeared in the Oct.-Dec. 2006 issue of "Draft NOtices," from San Diego's Committee Opposing Militarism & the Draft (COMD) (www.comdsd.org).

PART's PERSPECTIVE:

WHEN TYRANNY IS LAW, REVOLUTION IS IN ORDER

by Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)

Sterile debates about the nature of fascism and the question of whether fascism has taken or will take root in the US can now be set aside. Under SB 3930, the Military Commissions Act of 2006, signed into law by pResident George W. Bush on October 17, torture is now legal in the US. So-called "enemy combatants" can be detained indefinitely by order of the pResident with no judicial review. The Military Commissions it establishes have jurisdiction to try any offense committed by an alien unlawful enemy combatant before, on, or after September 11, 2001. The "great writ" of Habeas Corpus, the right to appeal to a court for hearing on one's imprisonment, first adopted in the 13th Century, no longer applies in the US.

An unlawful enemy combatant is "a person who has engaged in hostilities or who has purposefully and materially supported hostilities against the US or its co-belligerents ... or a person who, before, on, or after the enactment of the Act has been determined to be an unlawful enemy combatant by a Combatant Status Review Tribunal or other tribunal established under the authority of the President or the Secretary of Defense." The Act provides that "no court, justice, or judge" can consider petitions or other actions related to treatment or imprisonment filed by anyone designated as an enemy combatant, now or in the future. In other words, all previous crimes committed by the Bush regime are untouchable retroactively, and all future acts are no longer crimes. Like Alice, Bush may not say what he means, but he means what he says. And like the Queen of Hearts, Emperor Bush has "only one way of settling all difficulties, great or small. `Off with his head!' [he] said, without even looking round." Whatever Bush did, is doing or does is legal; whatever Bush says was, is, or will be a crime can be punished on his unchallenged say-so. Can you say "Nuremberg Laws" – the act that legalized the Hitler regime?

It should go without saying, but unfortunately cannot, that the problem is far greater than Bush. The Military Commissions Act passed the House and Senate with significant margins that included Democrats, as has every other measure legalizing and authorizing the war crimes and domestic political terror he has carried out. Anyone who imagines, even if the rulers allow the Democrats to regain control of the House or Senate, that this Act will be repealed, that Bush, Cheney or Rumsfeld will be removed from office, or that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will be swiftly ended, hasn't been paying attention to reality.

The question now becomes, what do we do about it? If people simply heave a great sigh of relief after the elections (assuming that the balloting in fact produces the partisan shift tracking polls that predict) we are really screwed.

Around the world and pressing up against the militarily-imposed border between the US and Mexico, people are demonstrating, through enormous sacrifice, the only effective way to deal with imperialism. It involves recognizing that Empire is a state of non-stop war against the people and the planet itself. It involves direct action, mutual aid and solidarity by the people to meet their own needs and to defend themselves from the predatory system that requires their suffering and exploitation to sustain itself. It involves resistance by any and every means necessary.

Forty years ago, at the founding of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, Minister of Defense Huey P. Newton and Chairman Bobby Seale put forward a strategy of "exhausting all legal means" to liberate the Black colony and end the rule of avaricious businessmen, demagogic politicians and racist dog police by showing the Black community its power. Today, nobody can doubt or deny that all legal means have long since been exhausted. Allowed by the failures of the last revolutionary upsurge to advance from parasitism into necrosis, the Empire is destroying us all to extend its life still further. Polar ice is melting, ocean water is acidifying, and the hole in the ozone is larger and deeper than ever before.

Unless we act now to topple the Empire, long before peak oil disintegrates industrial society, coal gasification and other similar measures will accelerate the already destructive rate of global warming and catastrophic climate change. Mass extinction of marine life, rising sea levels, desertification of agriculturally productive areas, exhaustion of aquifers will increase correspondingly. As George Jackson said in Blood In My Eye, "come together, understand the reality of our situation, that fascism is already here, that people are already dying who could be saved, that generations more will live poor butchered half-lives if you fail to act. Do what must be done, discover your humanity and your love in revolution."

But revolution in the 21st Century must learn from all the failed revolutions of the past, must transcend both colonialism and nationalism, white supremacy and class privilege, male chauvinism and women's oppression. We cannot afford structures that, like the vanguard parties of the past, can be decapitated, coopted or corrupted by a taste of power. Nor can we afford a white "left" that presumes to base itself on the territorial configuration and social stratification of Empire and to dictate the terms, pace, methods and purpose of revolutionary change to oppressed and colonized people. We need deep-rooted forms of organization that can resist fierce repression, reject seductive reforms, and not only make the Empire pay a price for its attacks, but take the initiative to force it to react and respond to us.

COUNTERPOINT: FASCISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

by Malcolm Y. Azariah (excerpted from a lengthy letter)

In your response to my letter printed in the Sept.-Oct. issue of TTT, you raised several points I'd like to address. I believe this can contribute to a more informed understanding of how fascism plays a central role in the conflicts in the Middle East. Even the best of us are subject to romanticizing those portrayed as fighting wars of resistance. The left is not immune to a political correctness that makes certain facts unpleasant, but we must guard against becoming ideologues. So I hope you'll print this brief histiry lesson and welcome any responses.

The facts you state about the colonization of the Muslim world are mostly correct but they should be put in context. The entire map of the Mid-East was established through colonialism, when the defeated Ottoman Empire was carved up by the victorious Allied powers. Jewish communities have existed in areas of the Middle East and North Africa for more than 2500 years, but with the rise of Islam, their situation became precarious. In areas outside the Arabian peninsula, Jews were allowed to remain provided they accepted the humiliating status of the dhimmi, a second class citizen required to pay a special tax. There were pogroms and terror equivalent to that visited by the KKK to keep the "uppity" in their place. There were exceptions at times such as the moderate Islamic rule for a time in Spain and later the Ottoman Empire, but they were the exception. Jews in Morocco today are relatively few and under the protection of an authoritarian ruler committed to secularism.

You mention the "continuing occupation of parts of Lebanon and Syria as well as the West Bank and Gaza." I assume you refer to the Sabaa Farms area as part of Lebanon; but the UN admits this area was never under Lebanese control, and Israel has been in negotiations with Syria over it. It is no justification for Lebanese aggression toward Israel, which withdrew completely from Lebanon in 2000, but has been subjected to continual aggression since. The same has happened after full withdrawal from Gaza, with Palestinians launching 1000s of rockets into Israel targeting civilians. I can't speak on the motivation for US and Israeli support for the formation of Hamas as a counter to the PLO, but they did not create it. In its constitution it declares, "Israel will exist until Islam obliterates it." I must also take issue with your assertion that "Zionism is not an authentic national liberation movement, because there is no Jewish nation." Though Palestinians and Arabs can become citizens of other states, you recognize them as distinct nationalities. Why not Jews? Judaism is a religion, but the majority of Jews are secular, including Israelis, and many who are religious are in religions other than Judaism. Yet there are cultural and ethnic – though not racial – elements that can only be attributed to a sense of nationhood.

While I share your dream of a stateless society, we live in a world of nation states, and in such a world, the stateless cannot guarantee themselves the freedoms you speak of. You claim that Zionist provocation in Syria and elsewhere drove Sephardi Jews to Israel. Was is Zionists who committed pogroms against Sehardim in Syria and elsewhere in the 15th, 16th and up to the 19th century? During WWII, there was a real Islamo-Nazi axis. This led to a Holocaust-era pogrom against Jews in Iraq by Nazi sympathizers in 1941, the deportation of Jews from North Africa to concentration camps, and the enthusiastic support for Hitler by Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. He rallied Bosnian Muslims in Croatia to serve in SS units. In 1943, he went to Berlin and established the Arab Institute for Research into the Jewish Question. Hitler's Mein Kampf and the fraudulent "Protocol of the Elders of Zion" were translated into Arabic and are still available widely. The Baath Party modeled itself on National Socialism. The silence on the relationship between al Husseini and Hitler, not to mention on the fact that Yasser Arafat was al-Husseini's nephew, is an example of historical revisionism. Modern revisionism – Holocaust denial – is widespread in the Arab world. The discredited David Irving is considered a serious historian; David Duke has been a guest of the Syrian government. Finally, regarding the events of the summer, even the Arab states initially recognized that Hezbollah was the aggressor. No side is blameless in a war, but Israel took great precautions to avoid civilian casualties. They dropped leaflets to warn Lebanese civilians to clear out of their neighborhoods because an air raid was coming, whereas Hezbollah deliberately used civilians as human shields. There are suggestions the tragedy in Kana was staged. Those who face "assymetrical warfare," like Israel are caught in a Catch-22. Those who single Israel out for human rights abuses while ignoring the challenges she faces, are also guilty of willful ignorance of what motivates the groups that pose an existential threat to Israel, like Hezbollah and Hamas. Unlike Saudi Arabia, Israel allows freedom of religion.If the Arabs put down their weapons, there would be no war in the region. If Israel puts down its weapons, there would be more Israel. Anti-Zionist means that Israel, regardless of its leaders, policies, and other aspects of how its society is run, has no right to exist.

PO Box 708, Spruce Pine NC 28777

RESPONSE: ANTI-ZIONISM IS ANTI-IMPERIALISM

Although Malcolm tries to couch his response in comradely terms, he ultimately concludes that anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism. It is striking that with numerous articles on all sorts of aspects of imperialism and racism, it is critiques of Zionism that always elicit lengthy and hostile responses to TTT. (Prisoner Mark Jordan also wrote to defend the existence of a Jewish nation with the right to self-determination). Recently, here in LA, pro-Zionist forces launched a major attack against my union, United Teachers Los Angeles, and its Human Rights Committee simply for planning to host a meeting by Movement for a Democratic Society to discuss a boycott of Israel. They succeeded, where they failed to get the Human Relations Commission to withdraw awards to Muslim peace-makers, and have now gone on to attack the AFSC and the Coalition Against Militarism in the Schools. We don't have the space to undertake a point by point refutation of the above piece; but suffice it to say that Zionist collaboration with Hitler is also well documented. The asymmetry of warfare, as seen in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq and elsewhere is primarily about the massive overkill of imperial state terror. We have always opposed both Zionism and Arab reaction as tools of empire; we believe in armed self-defense, mutual aid and solidarity, and a non-state solution to end all exploitation, oppression and colonialism.

In 1930, Japanese writer Kuroshima Denji (1898-1943) published an antiwar novel that remains startlingly and tragically timely in a world of nationalist-driven military intervention. Zeljko Cipris here introduces Kuroshima and presents excerpts from his novel, *Militarized Streets*, which Cipris translated for the University of Hawai'i Press. Zeljko Cipris teaches Japanese language and literature at the University of the Pacific in California. He is translator of Ishikawa Tatsuzo's *Soldiers Alive* and of *A Flock of Swirling Crows and Other Proletarian Writings*, a collection of works by Kuroshima Denji. These are excerpts from a Japan Focus article that is adapted from the introduction to A Flock of Swirling Crows.--Editor

Against The System:
Antiwar Writing of Kuroshima Denji

By Zeljko Cipris, Japan Focus

The origins of the anti-militarism and anti-imperialism that continue to motivate the opposition of most Japanese people to rearmament, and to participation in 21st-century imperial adventures, precede the nation's defeat in World War II. They date back more than a century, to a time when Japan was still a rising military and industrial power. In 1901 radical journalist Kotoku Shusui published his prophetic and grimly titled essay *Imperialism, the Monster of the 20th Century*. In 1904 a pacifist poem by Yosano Akiko struck a forceful note of antiwar sentiment at the very height of Japan's victorious war with Russia. By the '20s, anti-militarism and anti-war activism in Japan formed a part of vigorous movements for profound social change: among them a labor movement, women's movement, student movement, peasant movement, and a movement for the emancipation of social out-castes. Dissident artists and writers of this exuberant era were producing posters, paintings, poems, plays, and prose with anti-militarist, anti-imperialist, and anti-capitalist themes.

One of the most dedicated anti-militarist intellectuals active at the time was Kuroshima Denji (1898-1943), who was born into a poor farming family on Shodo Island and went to Tokyo to work and study. Conscripted into the army in 1919, he was sent to fight in a doomed counter-revolutionary war against the newly formed USSR waged by Japan and its World War I allies, including the US, Canada, Britain, and France. After his return and recovery, Kuroshima joined a flourishing proletarian literature movement. He researched a passionately anti-imperialist novel in China. Kuroshima is best known for his Siberian stories of the late 1920s: vivid descriptions of agonies suffered by Japanese soldiers and Russian civilians during Japan's invasion of the USSR. Kuroshima also wrote powerful narratives dealing with the hardships, struggles, and rare triumphs of Japanese peasants. His only full-length novel, *Militarized Streets*, is a shocking description of economic and military aggression against China.

Kuroshima's work forms an integral part of the proletarian literary movement, a major current in modern world literature whose revolutionary aims inspired and engaged many Japanese writers, particularly in the 20s and early 30s. The movement produced literature depicting the harsh lives of women, workers, peasants, and other downtrodden members of society, and their persevering struggles for change. Although the movement was ultimately suppressed by the state, it continues to be recognized as a significant development in the cultural and political history of modern Japan. Its literary output still retains considerable power to galvanize thought and action. Kuroshima's narratives, like those of Chekhov, whom he greatly admired, are unadorned in style, straightforward, and rich in detail. Their content conveys a sense of authenticity, grief over unnecessary suffering, and above all the urgent need for change. Devoid of easy optimism, his stories are open-ended chronicles of abuse and resistance.

Ultimately, Kuroshima is convinced, only a vast international movement based on grassroots solidarity stands a chance of replacing a heartless status quo with a world of justice and generosity. Meanwhile, faced with the daily tragedies of an irrationally structured world, radical artists everywhere are morally bound to persevere in their oppositional work. In his 1929 essay *On Antiwar Literature*, Kuroshima writes: "So long as the capitalist system exists, proletarian antiwar literature must also exist, and fight against it."

One of the early incidents that eventually led to full-scale war between Japan and China occurred in the spring of 1928 in Jinan, capital of Shandong province, during a northward advance by Chinese nationalist troops attempting to reunify the country. Possessing considerable commercial and industrial investments in Jinan, and faced with a collapse of its favored warlord in the area, Japan rushed in its own troops, ostensibly to safeguard the Japanese residents of the city. After a tense standoff, Japanese units clashed with their Chinese counterparts. The Japanese army, needing reinforcements, claimed that hundreds of Japanese residents had been massacred by the Chinese troops. Though the dead actually numbered no more than 13 or 14 suspected opium smugglers, Japanese newspapers reacted to their deaths with outrage and demanded armed intervention. Japan's Prime Minister dispatched an additional division to the region, and the troops launched an attack against Jinan, killing and wounding thousands of Chinese civilians. Japanese military responses of this kind deepened Chinese hatred of Japan's imperialism and helped to ignite popular resistance to it that culminated in the Chinese Revolution.

Not all Japanese subscribed to the official story: a small but energetic anti-interventionist movement called for an end to Japanese militarism and for solidarity between the people of China and Japan. Kuroshima Denji, who knew war at first hand, traveled to China to view the war up close. His research resulted in the novel *Militarized Streets*, published in Nov. 1930. Kuroshima's novel was instantly banned, censored again fifteen years later by the US occupation authorities, and not reprinted in full until 1970, four decades after its initial publication. *Militarized Streets* offers a penetrating analysis of an exploitative system in action, cautions against an impending imperialist war, and suggests a path to a humane, peaceful world: by forging powerful bonds of international solidarity. Written decades ago, his book remains startlingly, tragically timely in a world of nationalist-driven military intervention. A complete English translation of *Militarized Streets* is available in *A Flock of Swirling Crows and Other Proletarian Writings* by Kuroshima Denji (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2005). Here are excerpts:

Massacre of Innocents

The airplanes appeared. Approaching the city airspace, they dropped one black lump after another, like birds shitting in flight. The objects streaked through the air and shook the ground with detonations. An air raid! There were three aircraft, flying in a V-formation. They flew in a wide circle over the city as though searching for an old nest. They reached the western suburb. One of the airplanes suddenly burst open like a glass bead. A shower of sparks shot from it. Spitting black smoke, blazing, wings breaking apart, it plummeted to the ground.

The street fighting was over. The exhausted soldiers received 2-1/2 days of rest. They drank sake and smoked up the cigarettes they had gone without for a week. Chinese corpses lay sprawled throughout the streets. A sour stench fouled the air. Countless flies buzzed. Shaggy dogs and beggars, both licking their lips, wandered cheerfully among the corpses, the dogs wagging their tails. There was utter silence. Only the rhythmic crunching of the men's shoes broke the stillness and was swallowed up by the dark sky. On the western side of S Hospital, responding to quiet authoritative orders, artillery-men were placing guns into position with a clatter of wheels. The soldiers silently marched on. Bluish clouds dyed purple by the red sunrise were gently drifting. It grew bright. The house whose roof had been smashed by the downed aircraft crouched like a crab with a crushed shell. There was no one around but soldiers. The house looked devoid of life. The surrounding grass had been trampled out of recognition.

The company entered a devastated street. Windowpanes, doors, walls, and roofs: all had been destroyed. A woman's rattan clog struck against a military shoe. The soldiers turned past a tall solid stone house and wall to emerge onto a broad and desolate grassy plain. They cut diagonally across it. Once more they passed through the rubble of what had been houses. They wound along the narrow streets. Suddenly the sun rose radiant among the jagged ruined roofs. Fragments of cloud that had been scattered throughout the sky vanished without a trace. The entire wreckage stood out illuminated intensely by the sun. The company came out onto a main road. This led in a straight line to the outer gate of the stronghold. A 'Sun in the Blue Sky' flag fluttered from a structure beyond the gate. A signal was heard from somewhere. Far to the rear, from the vicinity of the artillery emplacement, gunfire roared. Shells moaned through the sky and exploded ahead. In response, continuous gunfire commenced from the opposite, eastern direction. Kakimoto's calves twitched and trembled. Then his entire body began to shiver.

Suddenly the company column was fired upon from the flank. The company commander heard several shots crack just above his head. They came from the second floor of T Hospital. Kakimoto heard them too. The shots ceased. "Oh, no! What a place to be ambushed from!" the special-duty sergeant major exclaimed morosely, taking cover behind an acacia. The soldiers looked at each other. Wry smiles spontaneously creased their faces. At the same time, the flabbergasted commander's order arrived to spread out. "Now he'll be ordering us to attack this place, too." Takatori grinned meaningfully at the stocky Tamada. Kakimoto heard him too. "And what the hell for? No one will be there."

Tamada raised his head and surveyed the two-story hospital. While he was still eying it, the right flank, headed by Lieutenant Shigefuji, broke through the doors and with bayonets and rifles thrust out before them charged into the interior, which reeked of disinfectant. Other soldiers poured in after them. Nurses in white flickered before their eyes. Patients were lying in beds. Pleurisy, nephritis, gastric ulcers, cardiac valve disease: there were separate departments for internal medicine and surgery. The doors dividing the many rooms were banged open one after another. Muddy shoes jumped atop beds. The operating table's thick glass shattered into a web of cracks.

A Revolutionary Alliance

Soldiers were falling in quick succession like straw puppets. The officers' ambition and rivalry weighed heavily upon the soldiers. Kakimoto and his comrades could see that clearly. There was no time even to untie their leggings. They were dead tired. It was too much. They dozed unawares while aiming their rifles. Within the confusion, men lost track of their comrades-in-arms. It was so hot in the city it might as well have been raining burning tongs.Torn off by the yellow wind, young acacia leaves mixed with dust flew blindingly through the streets.

Kakimoto was thinking about the slightly foolish, reckless Takatori. Where had that honest, genial fellow gone? He seemed foolish but was in fact anything but a fool. It had been Takatori who had approached the workers before anyone else. He had made friends with them. Soldiers had thrown away their lives in the Russo-Japanese and Sino-Japanese wars. Now they were risking their lives to protect the settlers and their property. But those were bloody lies. Takatori had pointed this out before anyone else. "In truth, all they're making us do is kill the Chinese," he had said.

"They send us all the way over here," resumed Takatori, "and we wouldn't even be able to protect our own parents... That's the truth of it. Only those with a pile of money get protected. And for that, sacrificing us no matter how much they have to sacrifice us is something that they don't give a second thought to. While guarding the factories here, we torment the workers. We drive off the Southern Army. This way, they're thinking, they'll get their hands on the Manchurian interests. Because for them, Manchuria is the grand prize."

"We get paid about seven yen a month. Our lives get thrown away for free. We get nothing out of it. When we go back, we get nothing unless we go out to work for it. Maybe we're their Manchurian bulwark, but they won't give us any time off or free food for it." Kakimoto felt deeply moved, quite out of keeping with the spirit of Takatori's bold speech. "We're being used to beat China down. And the more we stand in the way of the workers and peasants movement here, the harder our own lives'll get back home."

"It's only the rich who grin while crushing China. The rich will get even richer from it... They'll profit, and they'll use those profits to keep us pinned in our place. In any case, we can never win alone. Unless the Chinese do their damnedest, our own task at home will be really tough!" And now Takatori had vanished. It was only those last words that Kakimoto did not yet understand clearly. What worried the officers far more than any outlaws or Southern troops holding out in a fort were those ninja leaflets, and the likes of Takatori, as well as the possibility of a revolutionary alliance between the workers and the soldiers. This was what they feared most. That much was for sure.

RACIST GROUPS IN THE U.S. MILITARY

by
Kathy Gilberd

Recent news reports have focused public attention on a long-standing problem—the presence of active racist and extremist organizations in the military. In July, the Cape Cod Times reported that a Coast Guard petty officer, Chad Blair, faced court-martial charges for recruiting for the Ku Klux Klan, and for illegal possession of weapons and explosive material. Blair was initially investigated for placing Klan recruitment flyers at a local airport. Seven non-military weapons, including a "large capacity" firearm (a term used to describe semi-automatic rifles or shotguns) and explosive powder were later found in his home.

In the same month, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) released a detailed report describing extensive activity by extremist groups in all branches of the service. (The widely discussed report is available at http://www.splcenter.org/intel/news/item.jsp?aid=66.) The author, David Holthouse, gave examples of active duty military members of the Aryan Nations, the Klan, and similar organizations. He interviewed veterans who had worked in these groups while in the military, and talked extensively with a military investigator who specialized in gang activity. The stories are both revealing and frightening.

Matt Buschbacker, a Navy Seal, was ordained as a reverend in the neo-Nazi World Church of the Creator before his enlistment. While in the Navy, he attended a "leadership conference" of the racist National Alliance, for whom he wrote fliers, created computer screen savers and wrote website articles. Although SPLC notified the military of his activity, he was allowed to continue serving in Iraq. James Ross, Jr., a military intelligence officer, was caught sending AK-47's from Iraq to the US; a search of his house revealed a large cache of weapons and hate literature. After his court-martial and bad conduct discharge, he continues efforts to recruit military personnel into his current organization, the Eastern Washington Skins. Airman First Class Andrew Dornan, a member of the US Air Force Honor Guard, was court-martialed after posting pro-Hitler messages on his webpage and threatening to set off a bomb on base.

These and other service members named in the report are not isolated individuals. Scott Barfield, a military investigator interviewed for the SPLC report, estimated that members of extremist groups number "well into the thousands, just in the Army." His own investigations at Ft. Lewis, in Washington, identified 320 extremists stationed at that base alone. With other investigators, he helped to uncover an online network of some 57 neo-nazi soldiers and Marines stationed at Ft. Lewis, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, Ft. Hood, Texas, Ft. Stewart, Georgia, and Camp Pendleton. Several neo-Nazi groups have made it clear they are sending their members in to the military for training as well as recruitment purposes.

See Military Racists p. 2

Echoes of the Toledo Uprising:
Failures of Anti-Racist Action and the Left in North East Ohio

by
Nick Long for the ARA Network (Toledo Solidarity Working Group)

On October 15, 2005, the mostly-Black North Toledo community erupted in a small popular uprising against organized white supremacists and police abuse. There was a history of economic frustration and police brutality facing portions of the population. Earlier that year an African American man died in police custody after being shocked by a TASER nine times. Though the coroner ruled the death a homicide, no officers were charged. Those frustrations finally came to a head with the introduction of several new elements: a neo-Nazi rally under police protection, and outside left groups opposing the fascist presence. The community reaction to the Nazi organization, the National Socialist Movement (NSM), is clear. However the effect the introduction of organized, easily identifiable groups advocating an anti-racist, multicultural, and liberation-oriented politic has had requires a deeper discussion.

As the Nazi and anti-fascist demonstrations got under way, many community youth participated in the anti-racist manifestation. Many more community members observed from windows and porches. Taunts from anti-racists grew and some community youths threw eggs over the heads of the police at the white supremacists. In response, a police riot was initiated to defend the Nazis. As police fired tear gas, charging the anti-racist demonstration with their horses, the entire community reacted. Ultimately, a spontaneously organized force of 600-1000 community members repelled the police and the Nazis. The mayor declared a state of martial law lasting into the next morning.

When the dust settled, over 100 people had been arrested, and a bar known for the racism of its owner, who had purportedly invited the Nazis into the community, was burnt down. Many of those arrested couldn't afford lawyers; court dockets show a number of them had gone before the court on debt-related cases. All those arrested were anti-racists engaged in a battle for community self-determination. With the exception of a white Toledo resident who participated in organizing opposition to the Nazi rally, all were African American.

The uprising made international headlines in the corporate, independent, and Left media. The mainstream media misrepresented the event. Their portrayal was racist. It disfigured the politically conscious and heroic nature of the event to spin a tawdry tale of gangs, drugs, and black 'insanity.' This inaccuracy fit with America's default cultural perspective, i.e. white supremacist patriarchy. This was so glaring, it wouldn't have been inappropriate for the Nazis to thank these "journalists" for their rhetorical support. The grassroots and left media gave a more accurate account of the day's events, but it wasn't widely read. Unfortunately, it's regarding the various manifestations of the Left that a critique towards a more successful integration of theory and practice is necessary.

The initial reaction of left groups was to publicize the event and provide an analysis appropriate to their particular theoretical platform. Three groups need special consideration because of their relationship to events on Oct. 15: the International Socialist Organization (ISO), the Anti-Racist Action Network (ARA), and a group of Toledo anarchists. The local Anarchist group formed a coalition with the ISO and other interested residents. ARA, with chapters in Kent, Ohio and other cities in the northeast, was invited to mobilize outside support and come to Toledo to oppose the Nazis. At that point ARA entered the coalition. But on the day of the demonstration, ISO broke with the coalition for unknown reasons, and refused to march on the same side of the street as the other activists. When people took to the streets to defend their community from a police riot, ISO instantly abandoned the scene. ARA and the Toledo activists remained in the community throughout the course of the uprising.

All those arrested were subject to high bail, up to $30,000, without an option for 10% bond. For many, reduced bail wasn't offered unless they agreed to a drug test by urinalysis. This unusual condition was an attempt to associate the demonstrators with other crimes, without having to make an actual allegation. Authorities knew combining the words "riot," "black", and "drugs" would assist a certain segment of the population in rationalizing the events to justify the actions of city officials and police. It would also play on the internalized racism of Black residents, who'd be less dangerous perceiving themselves as criminals than as political actors.

ARA sent out a public call for funds to support those who were arrested. The money was collected via the Kent chapter and was sent to the Toledo activists for disbursement. ARA also made a contribution from its legal defense fund for the local activist who'd been arrested, who like the others wasn't released for weeks.

The ISO was MIA after October 15. The group was privately hostile, condemning the uprising and blaming "anarchists" for ruining their peaceful march. Their private analysis lacked any sympathy for the determination of the community and took a paternalistic approach, claiming it was impossible "to protect" community members. Their press, however, told a different story of ISO's role. They asserted the community had the right to rebel and carried interviews with North Toledo residents who expressed their outrage at the Nazi presence. Further, they were more than happy to publicize inaccurate media reports associating them with the clash. Said one article in the ISO's Socialist Worker:

"For their part, the Nazis denounced left-wing groups, including the I SO, who supposedly showed up and "handed out eggs to African American residents," according to an allegation in one news report. Ford actually went along with this, telling CNN, "Based on the intelligence we received, that's exactly what they do--they come to town and get people riled up."

Here the ISO embellishes their "role" in the event. The organization was more than willing, by not challenging the statements by the mayor and media, to claim the role of "outside instigator" they derided the "anarchists" for on the local level. Beyond its opportunistic reporting, the ISO contributed no support to the community in the aftermath of the uprising. The group of Toledo anarchists did initially appear to show support. They participated in ARA's fundraising efforts, and attended a community forum to address what had occurred. They also provided arrest lists to outside groups, including ARA.

Two months after the Toledo Uprising, despite the reaction of the people and the disaster it presented to city government, the city allowed the Nazis back. This time they spent even more money to protect them, and conceived a much more elaborate scheme for defending this outfit. In the months leading up to this "sequel" there were several events worth mentioning. The Toledo anarchists joined the Anti-Racist Action Network, becoming Toledo ARA. In Bowling Green, OH a group of students came together using the name ARA. They publicly claimed the Toledo Uprising as the motivating force for their formation. They had a relationship with Toledo ARA, but failed to successfully incorporate themselves with the Anti-Racist Action Network.

The city of Toledo filed injunctions against ARA, the ISO, Type A (an anonymous anarchist group), and the National Socialist Movement. This injunction banned these organizations from the city of Toledo. The only exception to this injunction referred to the date of the December Nazi rally – the named organizations could enter the city as long as they limited their presence to protest pens organized by the city. Anyone the city could associate with the four groups would be subject to arrest if they were found anywhere else in the city. The NSM was the only group to oppose these sanctions in the courts. NSM leader Bill White represented himself on behalf of the organization. The city lifted the ban on the Nazis on December 17. The ban on anti-fascist organizations was enforced until December 24. During this period, groups of Nazis made informal incursions into the city. Toledo ARA successfully monitored them. As a result, their presence was never felt. When the second Nazi rally occurred, in downtown Toledo, there were over 20 arrests; this time with a higher number of outside activists. Most were arrested at random while peacefully demonstrating in the city's "protest pens." Additionally, several anti-fascists who had driven from Chicago were arrested near a library for violating the city's injunction.

From then 'Til Now: The Failure of the Left

In the aftermath there was little response from the left, and a drop in activity by those sectors that originally responded. ISO continued to be uninvolved. Toledo ARA had some success supporting outside activists who were arrested in December. The ARA Network published some info about what was happening in Toledo and prisoner support. However, our efforts to show solidarity with the community in its legal battles were minimal. Our activity was devoted to hounding the NSM across the US, without building a solid relationship with those arrested in Toledo.

There were never jail or courthouse solidarity actions for the arrested community members. There was no attempt by the left to make contact with community members before they were to appear in court. The last news from Toledo ARA had been that all felonies had been reduced to misdemeanors and many charges had been dropped all together, but this wasn't the case. Most shocking among the convictions were those of a 17-year-old boy who was sentenced to 8 years in prison after being tried as an adult, and of a wife and mother who received 5 years in prison. In contrast, none of the outside white activists served time. Four Chicago anti-fascists won a lawsuit against the city of Toledo in which all their charges were dropped.

In the midst of this Toledo ARA left the Network, supposedly to become an anarchist organization with a more general program focused on local issues. They dubbed themselves the "October 15th Anarchist Collective" in reference to the Toledo Uprising. They circulated several public statements referring to their role in the Toledo riots, including this self-description: "*The group evolved out of Toledo ARA, which was integral in organizing the resistance to an October 2005 neo-Nazi rally in a North Toledo neighborhood, which erupted into the historic October 15th Uprising, from which the group derives its name.*"

But defense of those arrested was not on their operative agenda. The same is true for the "Type A" Anarchist Collective, who called for a Midwest anarchist gathering – but the plight of the North Toledo community was not on the agenda.

Recently the ARA Network decided that, having no direct contacts with the community, we needed to become more involved with local community activists. We discovered there were still upcoming court proceedings yet. The first, in August, had very late notice. We were able to contact the "October 15th" collective, and notify them. They committed to hold an impromptu demonstration of courthouse solidarity, but didn't. From that point on their activities were unknown. ARA concluded that it would have to do what it could to organize from the outside. Contacting several other groups including the ISO chapter in Toledo got disappointing results. Despite reminding ISO that both they and ARA bore obligations to this community, they refused to participate, citing a lack of an ongoing campaign. They had no interest in being part of organizing something themselves, despite their revolutionary rhetoric.

There's been insufficient contact with the North Toledo community since October 15, 2005, and insufficient solidarity. This despite the fact that Toledo's left is capable of organizing demos against Nazis, against the war, and for immigrant rights. This is despite the fact that it has organized a variety of fund-raisers that didn't relate to the rebellion in their back yard. There is a well-funded ISO chapter and an active anarchist community, which has used the name and the memory of North Toledo's victory against fascism and police repression to promote itself. Yet in the year since the uprising, these groups have, for the most part, proven to be hypocrites marred by their own privilege and opportunism. Amid a spontaneous anti-racist rebellion against fascism and state repression in a largely African American, working class, mixed income community, these groups have continued to prioritize strategies geared towards self-promotion, restricting themselves to their elite debating societies.

The left needs to re-assess itself. It needs to critically confront the priorities that have prevented it from creating a more successful synthesis of theoretical aspirations with meaningful practice. The Anti-Racist Action Network, for example, needs to take a critical look at why on two separate occasions it was able to mobilize significant outside support to oppose the Nazis in Toledo, but was not prepared to mobilize equal support for the community during the backlash. ARA was caught largely unprepared by the events of October 15. Throughout the year, the Network and its regional chapters continued to mount campaigns against white supremacist groups. A proactive show of solidarity with the people of North Toledo would've been more beneficial.

The Toledo experience has demonstrated that the left needs to examine the effects of privileges relating to skin color, class, and being officially connected parts of the activist community. No established outside leftist has had to serve time. Furthermore, solidarity events have been organized - in Toledo - not for the actual, legally embattled anti-fascist residents of this city, but for the outside Chicago activists. This reality deserves a great deal of scrutiny. It's necessary and appropriate to acknowledge The Books 4 Prisoners Crew for organizing solidarity letter writing campaigns to the imprisoned North Toledo community anti-fascists, and for early public criticism of left complacency.

Despite the many failures since the Uprising, all is not lost. There's still time to organize effective solidarity. ARA feels that all organizations of the left in the northeast, ARA included, owe an apology to the people of North Toledo. To be consistent, we must adapt to more effectively synthesize theory and practice. Furthermore, we must prioritize our activities to see that incidents like the Toledo Uprising take precedence over our usual business. We must work together as much as possible to build a democratic movement for social justice, equality, and freedom. This movement must include the voice of any community seeking to solve its problems in the spirit of our shared ideals. In light of our own previous shortcomings and failures in supporting the residents of North Toledo, the Anti-Racist Action Network has recently formed a Toledo Solidarity Working Group to address the current situation and begin providing support from outside. We feel it is necessary for other groups that had roles in the October 15 Uprising, or have places and stakes in the Toledo radical community, to take similar steps toward reconciling our collective rhetoric with our actions, and to help overcome our collective failures to this point.

The city of Toledo understood very well the potentially dynamic situation that would be presented were the North Toledo community able to build a long-term relationship with outside, radical, social welfare, oriented organizations. As a movement we must see to it that their current sighs of relief are premature. It is time we make it a priority to stand in solidarity with the anti-fascist residents of North Toledo!

REVISIONING JOHN BROWN: "HIS TRUTH IS MARCHING ON"

by Mumia Abu Jamal (Prepared for a discussion at Carnegie-Mellon, Pittsburgh, Oct. 2, 2006)

John Brown poses difficult and undeniable problems for us. For some like Staughton Lynd his violence and his authoritarian nature, indeed his profoundly disturbing certainty of his mission ordained by god, makes him a troubling model for the challenges of our hour. This is especially so, for many of us who feel the urgent need for Black and White social movements providing the energy for true social change. At the cross roads stands the shade of John Brown who blocks the way forward unless and until we can make peace with the ghost of this uniquely American warrior. That is because we have tended to remember Brown, if at all, as this God intoxicated mad man. In our minds his eyes flash lighting and his white beard flows with his rage, his teeth barred with malevolence. For if he is indeed mad then he may be safely jettisoned to the netherworld of otherness; for we are sane. John Brown was mad.

But are we not selective in our revulsion at needless violence? In Washington DC the imperial capital, there stands a statue — patina green with time — honoring none other than Nathan Bedford Forrest. As a confederate general in the civil war he staged the infamous Fort Pillow massacre on April 13, 1864, where mostly Black union soldiers were murdered in cold blood, after their surrender. Moreover Forrest became a leading force in the post war US terrorist group known as the Ku Klux Klan. Yet there his statue stands to this very day on honored ground. Why one wonders should we bring up Forrest when discussion Brown? What could this possibly mean when thinking of Blacks and Whites working together to build a social change movement?

If we are honest then we must recognize that the common nexus is violence, but that is not all. The central theme is race. General Nathan Bedford Forrest fought both during and after the Civil War for White Nationalism and Black subordination. He fought for the freedom to enslave others. John Brown fought both in Kansas and in Harpers Ferry against slavery and for Black freedom. Only in a nation deeply committed to white nationalism and white supremacy would Forrest have statues built to his memory enshrined in the national capital no less, and Brown be remembered—if at all—as a madman. It is only in this context that Brown's immense contribution can be discussed, for to do otherwise is to speak of him and of violence in a vacuum.

Staughton Lynd straightforwardly addressed the John Brown of Pottawatomie Kansas and his group's slaughter of five pro slavery men in May 1856. We should note, however, that Brown and his boys were part of a war in bleeding Kansas, a war to determine whether the territory would become a free state, or a slave state. And that violence, indeed horrific violence, was rampant on both sides. And the pro slavery side was winning. By using ruthless racist violence, terrorism and fear Kansas was tilting toward being a pro slavery state. Then came John Brown. Of Pottawatomie *Workers World* writer Shelly Ettinger recently wrote "At Pottawatomie on the night of May 24-25, 1856, John Brown led an armed band in a lightning raid against an encampment where he knew he'd find several of the worst of the Border Ruffians who were terrorizing the territory. When Brown and company rode off, they left the dead bodies of five racist thugs. The criminals Brown and his band killed had been responsible for many assaults and murders; they were also known for capturing Native women and forcing them into prostitution and sexually assaulting Free State women." [Workers World, September 14, 2006] Pottawatomie changed the temper of the times. Kansas was still bleeding Kansas, but it was not only anti-slavery blood that flowed.

It is not about violence. It is about on which side the violence was utilized. Violence in support of slavery was invisible. Violence in support of freedom was horrible. Speaking of slavery what was that but violence? It was violence made acceptable and invisible by the verbal violence of the law. The John Brown who worked for several months writing the Chatham constitution knew this. And in the preamble to that document made it abundantly clear what he thought of slavery. A position by the way that was agreed to by the scores of Black men who met with him at the Chatham convention in Canada.

Indeed this Chatham constitution did not merely contemplate freedom and slavery. In a call that reflects its foresight, it called for sexual equality; a remarkable achievement considering it was written and voted for in 1858.

In his words expressed in the declaration of liberty Brown observed that "slavery from its earliest inception was none other than a most barbarous unprovoked and unjustifiable war of one portion of its citizens upon another portion" unquote. This constitution was a declaration of war between two irreconcilable sides, slavery and freedom. John Brown chose freedom. Nor did he speak of something that would be alien in Black hearts; none other than Frederick Douglas eight years before the Chatham convention described enslaved captives as "prisoners of war in an enemy's country, of a war too that is unrivaled for its injustice, cruelty and meanness." Douglass unabashedly called for war against the slavery system and even after the civil war began he was a persistent and unrelenting critic of Lincoln for his failure to call for Black troops.

And what of Lincoln? Lincoln, the man honored today as the great emancipator, derided Brown and took pains to distance himself and his party from Brown's efforts. In a speech at the Cooper Institute in New York City on February 1860. Lincoln argued:

"You charge that we stir up insurrection among your slaves. We deny it. And what is your proof? Harpers Ferry. John Brown. John Brown was no republican and you have failed to implicate a single a republican in his Harpers Ferry enterprise." Lincoln went on to compare Brown to lunatics and regicides, drawing from glaring flawed examples abroad. Lincoln argued:

"John Brown's effort was peculiar — it was not a slave insurrection, it was an attempt by white men to get up a revolt among slaves in which the slaves refused to participate. In fact it was so absurd that the slaves with all their ignorance saw plainly enough that it would not succeed. That affair in its philosophy corresponds with the many attempts related in history of the assassination of kings and emperors. An enthusiast broods over the oppression of a people till he fancies himself commissioned by heaven to liberate. He ventures the attempt which ends in little else than his own execution. Orsini's attempt on Louis Napoleon and John Brown's attempt at Harpers Ferry were in their philosophy precisely the same." — That was Abraham Lincoln.

Two years before his Cooper Institute speech in September 1858, Lincoln would exclaim, "I do not suppose that the most peaceful ultimate extinction [of slavery] would occur in less than a hundred years at the least." As the famed Black historian Lerone Bennet has written if Lincoln had had his way: Oprah Winfrey, Martin Luther King jr., Jesse Jackson Sr., Lena Horn, Booker T Washington, Thurgood Marshall, Duke Ellington, Muhammad Ali, Jessie Owens, Louie Armstrong, WC Handy, Hank Aaron, Maya Angelou, Debbie Allen, Benjamin Quarles, Josephine Baker, Mary McCloud Bethune, Ralph Bunch, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, Leontyne Price, Bessie Smith, Walter White, Madame CJ Walker, Maxine Waters, Count Basie, Gwendolyn Brooks, Ida B Wells-Barnett, Richard Wright, Alex Haley, and even Clarence Thomas, would have been born in slavery.

John Brown changed that. His sole surviving comrade Osborn Anderson in his remarkable book "A Voice from Harpers Ferry" writes a far different history than the professionals. For one thing he was there. And barely escaped with his life. For another he was a revolutionary who knew the principals. He argues that Harpers Ferry could have had a completely different ending for those men and the nation had Brown been less solicitous of his hostages. Anderson wrote "that hundreds of slaves were ready and would have joined in the work had Captain Brown's sympathies not been aroused in favor of the families of his prisoners, and that a very different result would have been seen in consequence there is no question. There was abundant opportunity for him and the party to leave a place in which they held entire sway and possession before the arrival of the troops. [S]o cowardly were the slave holders proper that from Colonel Lewis Washington the descendant of the father of his country (General George Washington) they were easily taken prisoners. They had not pluck enough to fight nor to use the well loaded arms in their possession. But were concerned rather in keeping a whole skin by parlaying or by spilling cowardly tears to excite pity, as did Colonel Washington and in that way escape merited punishment. No, the conduct of the slaves was beyond all praise, and could our brave old captain have steeled his heart against the entreaties of his captives or shut up the fountains of his sympathies against their families, could he for the moment have forgotten them in the selfish thought of his own friends and kindred, or by adhering to the original plan, have left the place and thus looked forward to the prospective freedom of the slaves, hundreds ready and waiting would have been armed before 24 hours had elapsed."— Osborn Anderson, as one of the Black and White revolutionaries who tried to seize Harpers Ferry and thus fully cognizant of the failures of that effort, yet also saw the national impact of Brown's work as setting the light to the fuse that would blast slavery into the trash can of history.

In Anderson's words published in 1859, "As it was even the noble old man's mistakes were productive of great good. The fact of which the future historian will record without the embarrassment attending its present narration. John Brown did not only capture and hold Harpers Ferry for 20 hours, but he held the whole south, he captured President Buchanan and his cabinet, convulsed the whole country, killed Governor Wise and dug the mine and laid the train which will eventually dissolve the union between freedom and slavery, the rebound reveals the truth, so let it be." Two years after Anderson's words were on the page, uniformed men were marching with John Brown's name on their lips as the Civil War dissolved the union between freedom and slavery.

If we go into any Black neighborhood today whether north south, Midwest or west, and asked the question which three white men are most admired I would wager that most would answer with perhaps the following 1) Jesus, 2) John F. Kennedy, and 3) John Brown. I grew up in a project home where my mother had a painting of a blue eyed Jesus next to a photo of John F. Kennedy on the living room wall. Only after his 1968 assassination did the face of Martin Luther King Jr. get placed in the middle. The point is that in Black memory John Brown holds a treasured place. His example, his sacrifice, and yes, his fight against slavery, made him a name that would not be forgotten. That is because blacks know almost instinctively that whites who would put their lives on the line for Blacks are rare creatures. Yet whites try their damndest to forget him, remember "he's crazy."

How we reconcile his memory and his meaning for America will go a long way toward determining, whether, how and indeed if we work together to try to go about social change.

Comes down to something that is also incredibly rare and that is trust. During the 60's as Staunton Lynd remembers, Blacks in SNCC or the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, urged their white members to leave for a few years while both Blacks and Whites "got it together." As he notes those few years turned into decades and don't seem any closer even as we open a new century. Later in the 60's and early 70's a group tried to aspire to John Brown's high standard: the SDS or the students for a democratic society. As a member of the formation has recently noted, it broke from within chiefly because of the toxin of white supremacy. David Gilbert, writing of the split informs us, "SDS split apart along the basic fault line of the US bedrock of white supremacy. Between the desire for a potential majority base among white Americans and the urgent need for militant solidarity with Black and other third world struggles, one side, invoking a Eurocentric Marxism, said that the "revolution was about the working class," and used that as a left cover for retreat from fighting alongside Vietnam and the Panthers, claiming all nationalism is reactionary. The other side inspired by Marxist-led third world struggles rightly saw solidarity with national liberation as a priority for any revolutionary movement worthy of that name. However we wrongly abandoned efforts to organize significant numbers of white people, which also limited our base for anti-racist activism." "That is
from No Surrender — writings from an anti-imperialist, David Gilbert. The children who claim John Brown's paternity could not measure up to the man. As long whites can opt out of a true revolutionary movement and the state will provide every opportunity, then they will do so, especially when the forces of repression ratchet up the pressure. In the MOVE organization when the conflict between the state and the organization hardened we saw whites and other races peel away from the movement, leaving its mostly Black core. When the going gets rough, Whites get going, it seems.

That was the meaning and intent of the killing of a white housewife from Detroit named Viola Liuzzo slain by the Klan in Alabama but also defamed by the FBI for the capital crime of being like John Brown, a nigger lover. In a white supremacist state there is no greater crime than a white national can commit. Consider if you will the main offense for which John Brown was convicted, sentenced and executed for "treason" — this for a man who fought successfully for the inclusion of an article in the 1858 Chatham Constitution over objection which forbade any attempt to overthrown any state or the federal government. Brown in defense of article 46 argued "the old flag is good enough for me; under it freedom was won from the tyrants of the old world for white men, now I intend to make it do duty for Black men. By so doing he betrayed whiteness and earned the moniker 'mad'"

John Brown certainly lacked a democratic sense — one that is virtually always lacking in a military structure. He was also a man drunk with a certainty of his mission from god. Yet so too was Martin Luther King. Staughton Lynd's Zapatista visions, does give us valuable insight into another way of living in the world. It is refreshing such democracy as practiced not by the people so much as so called leaders; we see such things so rarely today. We can all learn from the struggles in the south, from Latin America, where we find indigenous led and women led formations that are deeply rooted in the community. The ghost of John
Brown stands between us even after one hundred and fifty years. How we remember him, and indeed —if —we remember him has impact on what future we will have. Was he mad? Or was he inspired by the burning fire of freedom? How we answer that question will determine whether he will go in peace or continue to haunt us into our future.

From death row, this is Mumia Abu Jamal.

REVOLUTION AT OUR DOORSTEP

As TTT was going to press, Mexican federal troops invaded Oaxaca, on the heels of another massacre, including the killing of Indy Media reporter Brad Will. Troops stormed the barricades and residents retreated from the Zocalo. This repression will not deter the uprising of the Mexican people. What's more, that upsurge will not be contained behind the militarily imposed border, even with a 700-mile fence. Revolutionary forces in Mexico have begun to discuss the fact that the Mexican people and their revolutionary process extends across the border to the territory and people carved out of Mexico by the US empire. And the lessons of Mexico's grassroots popular opposition are being discussed and internalized among Mexican and other people inside the US. We are printing here several pieces conveying the urgency and vibrancy of that movement, including the last dispatch of martyred photojournalist and activist Brad Will. Activists from CIPO-RFM, APPO and the teacher's union are coming to the US in Nov-Dec. For more information, contact ARA-LA.—Editor.

Hola tod@s,

I spent the last 15 minutes looking for an article that would briefly, but fully, describe the situation here in Oaxaca. I couldn´t find one! That says a lot about the state of the media, including the independent media. (The latter of which, actually, is flourishing here in Oaxaca city -- we have Radio Planton, that is, the radio station of the city occupation, on all the time, at least when the radio works -- and people have taken over several radio stations, television stations, etc., in the last month. Some have been given back, some haven´t.)

But there also exists a more general problem about how, or if, the written word can describe the ..... revolution, i guess ..... that´s happening here in Oaxaca. I can´t attempt to do so now. There are no cops, and no politicians, and little state activity, and everything in the area is tough, but fine. I´m writing to say that I'm thinking about Providence a lot, and what kinds of forces are stopping people in other parts of the world from doing exactly what people in Oaxaca City (and elsewhere in Oaxaca) are doing as I write: kicking out the police and politicians, setting up and mobilizing networks of people to create and maintain a mass occupation of cities and towns, creating their own security forces, staying at the barricades all night, despite being shot at by paramilitaries, and coordinating everything with popular assemblies.

The result: two wounded (on our side), several beaten (on our side), and two kidnapped (first quickly beaten, then shoved into cars). The battle took maybe 1 minute. After we had occupied the hotel, we had decided (democratically, assembly-style, because that's how most things are decided in this leaderless movement) to kick out the guests and close up the hotel. It was then that someone several yards from me saw the politicians and their paramilitaries try to escape from a side door. We gave chase. And that's when they started shooting. Some, perhaps more familiar with the pinging and whizzing of bullets around them (or perhaps simply a lot braver than I), stayed near or took cover right there. Most of us, including me, ran the other way and took cover when the bullets started coming.

I´m staying with the group CIPO-RFM here in Oaxaca City, and one of the Magonistas wrote something recently that provides a little more information, even if it doesn´t really carry the sense of radical effervescence that seems so palpable here. There's also much, much, MUCH I don´t understand. Neighborhood assemblies have been constructing and coordinating barricades in their neighborhoods and towns throughout the state. I've been to a couple of the main APPO (Popular People's Assembly of Oaxaca, the "coalition," you might call it, that is the heart of this popular rebellion) as an IWW delegate, and the breadth of the democratic spirit here is incredible. Many APPO folks, on strike and at the occupations and barricades, and many many many Oaxacans, are going hungry. It's been almost 4 months now. They need money down here, and direct action up in the US.

Abrazos combativos, Eric

The Politics of Violence in Oaxaca
by Raul Gatica, Writing for CIPO-Van from Exile in Vancouver, Canada

Hard times lie in store: That seems to be the message of the mobilization of the army in strategic points of the country; the creation of military units specially trained to deal with social protests and detain their leaders; the state of siege in a part of the capital during Vicente Fox's last presidential report; the assassination of members of the police by drug-traffickers and a general increase in criminal activity; and finally the deliberate lack of attention to national problems that range from growing poverty to the loss of employment opportunities and increasing levels of migration. Parallel to the electoral fraud on the federal level, the state of Oaxaca is experiencing a growth of aggression against those Oaxacans who, tired of the tyranny of state governor Ulises Ruiz Ortis, have organized themselves into the Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca (APPO). That aggression is carried out by paramilitary groups who consist of common criminals, illegally taken from the prisons for that purpose, as well as members of the police force.

The conflict didn't begin with the government's attempt of June 14 to remove the striking

teachers of 22nd section of the teachers' union SNTE-CNTE from the central square of the city of Oaxaca where they were protesting, but it was brought to a head by it. Its historical antecedents go back as far as the tradition of resistance of the indigenous communities. In the more recent past, it follows the expulsion from the central square of the Union of State Service Workers on June 12, 2003, and of protesters from the Popular Indigenous Council of Oaxaca "Ricardo Flores Magón" (CIPO) on September 14 and again on December 23 2004. Governor Ulises Ruiz was imposed in a contested election process; and aggression ensued against various other organizations of civil society, who all have their share of members that are held as political prisoners or, in the case of the author of this article, were forced into political exile.

But the formation of the APPO and its attempts at creating autonomous institutions through non-violent direct action go, without doubt, much beyond the partisan demands of some social organizations and unions. Against the peaceful efforts of the APPO to form citizen councils, take over radio stations, form voluntary self-defense groups, put up alternative markets, occupy buildings in order to restore them and put them at the service of the community, and put up barricades in order to stop the police from committing further aggression, the government responds with a dirty war. It's designed to generate terror and discourage the participation of the population. Its aim is to isolate nuclei of organization in order to stop the movement by means of repression.

The announcements of the state government concerning the social movement fit into its general strategy of a dirty war. In spite of the fact that all the killed and the wounded in this conflict are on the side of the APPO, that members of the movement, in contrast to those of the paramilitary forces, do not mask their faces, and that all of their actions. From demonstrations by children with flowers, to processions which celebrate Christian church services, to songs and dances - do not overstep the limits of the law and the constitution, the government maintains that it is the APPO who acts as an urban guerrilla force. In fact, an explosion of violence has so far been prevented only by the calm attitude of the APPO, which after its last mass-march of protest has begun to unilaterally take steps to diffuse the tension. At the same time, authorities have elegantly described their paramilitary operations as "road cleaning operations," although everybody else in Oaxaca has been forced by events to speak of the paramilitaries as the "convoy of death." Those events include the armed invasion of radio and TV stations and of the office of the newspaper Noticias, the beating up of journalists, the damage done to shops, and the creation of general terror through the assassination of Jose Colmenares, Lorenzo San Pablo Cervantes and Gonzalo Cisnero Gautier.

Brad Will's last email dispatch ... early dawn, Oct. 16

Yesterday I went for a walk with the good people of oaxaca -- was walking all day really -- in the afternoon they showed me where the bullets hit the wall -- they numbered the ones they could reach -- it reminded me of the doorway of amadou diallo's home -- but here the graffiti was there before the shooting began -- one bullet they didn't number was still in his head -- he was 41 years old -- Aejandro Garcia Hernandez -- at the neighborhood barricade every night -- that night he came out to join his wife and sons to let an ambulance through -- then a pickup tried to follow -- he took their bullet when he told them they could not pass -- they never did -- these military men in civilian dress shot their way out of there a young man who wanted to only be called marco was with them when the shooting happened -- a bullet passed through his shoulder -- he was clearly in shock when we met -- 19 years old -- said he hadnt told his parents yet -- said he had been at the barricade every night - said he was going back as soon as the wound closed – absolutely

out and started shooting -- 2 buses had already pulled away -- mayhem -- 10 minute battle with stones and slingshots and screaming – one head wound -- another through the leg -- made their way to the hospital while the fighting continued -- shout out on the radio and people came from all parts -- the gunmen were around the side of the building -- they got away --they were inside -- no one sure -- watchful -- undercover police were reported lurking around the hospital and folks went running to stand watch over the wounded what can you say about this movement -- this revolutionary moment – you know it is building, growing, shaping -- you can feel it – trying desperately for a direct democracy -- in november appo will have a state wide conference for the formation of a state wide assemblea estatal del pueblo de oaxaca (aepo) -- now there are 11 of 33 states in mexico that have declared formation of assemblea populares like appo -- and on la otra lado in the usa a few -- the marines have returned to sea even though the federal police who ravaged atenco remain close by -- the new encampment in mexico has begun a hunger strike -- the senate can expel URO – what's next nobody's sure -- it is a point of light pressed through glass -- ready to burn or show the way -- it is clear that this is more than a strike, more than expulsion of a governor, more than a blockade, more than a coalition of fragments -- it is a genuine peoples revolt -- and after decades of pri rule by bribe, fraud, and bullet the people are tired -- they call him the tyrant -- they talk of destroying this authoritarianism -- you cannot mistake the whisper of the lancandon jungle in the streets -- in every street corner deciding together to hold -- you see it their faces -- indigenous, women, children -- so brave -- watchful at night -- proud and resolute went walking back from alejandros barricade with a group of supporters who came from an outlying district a half hour away -- went walking with angry folk on their way to the morgue -- went inside and saw him -- havent seen too many bodies in my life -- eats you up -- a stack of nameless corpes in the corner -- about the number who had died -- no refrigeration -- the smell -- they had to open his skull to pull the bullet out -- walked back with him and his people and now alejandro waits in the zocalo -- like the others at their plantones -- he's waiting for an impasse, a change, an exit, a way forward, a way out, a solution -- waiting for the earth to shift and open -- waiting for november when he can sit with his loved ones on the day of the dead and share food and drink and a song -- waiting for the plaza to turn itself over to him and burst -- he will only wait until morning but tonight he is waiting for the governor and his lot to never come back -- one more death -- one more martyr in a dirty war -- one more time to cry and hurt -- one more time to know power and its ugly head -- one more bullet cracks the night -- one more night at the barricades -- some keep the fires -- others curl up and sleep -- but all of them are with him as he rests one last night at his watch.

just days before there was a delegation of senators visiting to determine the ungovernability of the state -- they got a taste -- the call went out to shut down the rest of the government -- dozens went walking out of the zocalo city center with big sticks and a box full of spray paint – they took control of 3 city buses and went around the city all morning visiting local government buildings and informing them that that they were closed -- and we appreciate your voluntary cooperation -- and they filed out perturbed but still getting paid -- shut -- as they pulled away from the last stop 3 gunmen came

Defend Women's Right to Choose!

In 2001, the government of the United States declared a "war on terror" and began rounding up Muslims and carpet bombing the Middle East. Their terror dragnet has expanded to include animal rights and environmental activists facing long prison terms. And yet a three-decade-old terrorist war continues to rage inside the United States beneath the radar of the national media, hurting people and ruining lives. It is the war of terror waged by the Christian Right against women and those who believe women should be able to control their own lives and reproductive health.

Since 1977, this terror war has claimed at least 7 lives, and also included 17 attempted murders, 152 assaults, more than 300 completed or attempted bombings and arsons, and literally thousands of threats and thousands of acts of vandalism. There have even been letters with real anthrax mailed to abortion rights groups, as well as hundred of fakes.

Despite this overt terror campaign, the government did not respond by bombing the Bible Belt or even subjecting segments of the anti-abortion movement to grand jury investigations or lock-ups. Instead, they slowly, quietly and steadily acquiesced to the terrorists' demands. The Supreme Court upheld mandatory waiting periods during which many states require women receive anti-abortion propaganda. Federal legislation banned Medicaid funding for abortion services, and those services were cut from medical for federal employees. Bans on providing information about abortions were written into international family planning assistance by the US. State legislation across the country has further cut funding for groups that provide abortion services, like the recent cuts to Planned Parenthood funding in Texas. Presidents like Reagan and the Bushes have given their seal of approval to anti-choice rallies on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Even the Democratic Party has considered abandoning reproductive rights as part of their platform, and ran anti-abortion candidates for congressional, gubernatorial and Senate seats in the last election.

Between the terror war being waged by the Christian Right and state bowing to their demands, access to abortion across the nation has been severely restricted. In Mississippi, which at one time had seven clinics offering abortions, only one clinic remains, making abortions inaccessible to many women in the state. In Kentucky, which has only two abortion-providing clinics remaining, state law prohibits hospital staff from offering abortion counseling or referrals to survivors of sexual assault. That state, along with Tennessee, also makes extra money from selling special anti-abortion license plates. Arson and bombings of clinics resulted in many losing insurance coverage and being forced to shut down. Abortion providers have been criminally charged, like Dr. Tiller in KS. The list of obstacles and regulations could go on, but the point is clear. The government that is charged with protecting women's rights is colluding with terrorists to deny them.

In July, 2006, Anti-Racist Action and other pro-choice activists from across the country converged on Jackson, Mississippi to confront the enemies of reproductive freedom head on. This January 19-26, during the week of the 33rd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, Anti-Racist Action chapters across the continent are organizing actions and events. We assert and defend the rights of women to have full control of their bodies and lives, and the rights of all of us to defend those rights from attack. We call on all people who support women's reproductive rights participate in local pro-choice events in your area or to organize your own event. –James, CenTex ARA

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TURNING THE TIDE

When the Prison Gates Are Opened, the True Dragon Will Fly Out!

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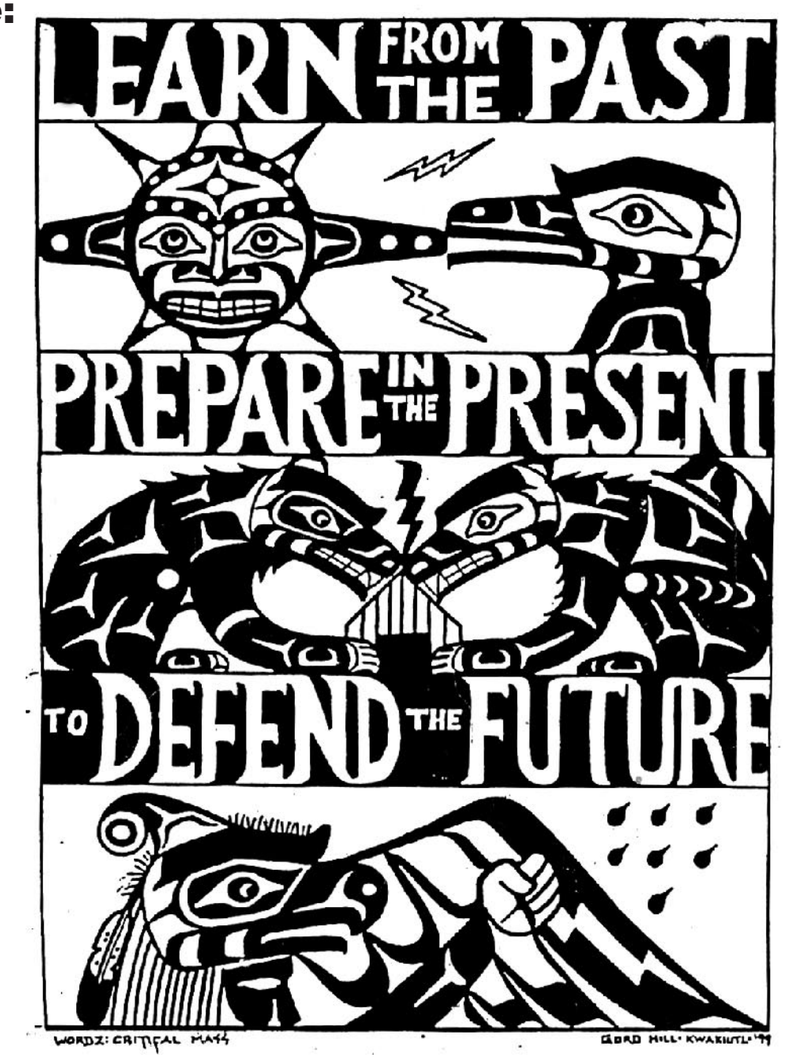

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PART's PERSPECTIVE:

LOOKING BACKWARD, LOOKING AHEAD: BUILDING A CULTURE OF POWERFUL RESISTANCE!

by Michael Novick, *Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)*

New year's is a time for taking stock and making resolutions. 2007 is the 20th anniversary of the founding of People Against Racist Terror (now Anti-Racist Action-LA) and begins the 20th year of publication of Turning the Tide. So it's a good time to reflect on what history and past practice can teach us about how to move ahead at this critical moment.

20 years ago, as today, Democrats had just regained control of the US Senate in mid-term elections. They faced a lame-duck president exposed in lies about illegal war (Iran-Contra, US selling Iran weapons for funds to replace Congressionally-prohibited aid to the Contra war in Nicaragua). Congress had the backbone, under pressure from the anti-apartheid movement, to override a Reagan veto of sanctions against South African. It blocked his nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court.

Many things hung in the balance. Though COINTELPRO and an imperialist counter-offensive had destroyed many organizations, liberation struggles in Central America and South Africa persevered, and popular movements were reasserting themselves in the US. The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement was launched in Peru. ACT UP formed to combat AIDS and the criminal negligence of Reagan-Bush in fighting it. Millions of undocumented were qualifying for legalization.

Culturally, punk still had energy as an alternative to the mainstream with a political edge, and hip-hop was breaking out into mass appeal with groups like Run DMC. The so-called "New Right" seemed to be running out of steam. The Moral Majority folded, and Jerry Falwell was forced to pick up the pieces of Jim Bakker's scandal-ridden PTL ministry. But covertly, the CIA was protecting drug-dealers associated with the Contras who were helping flood LA and other cities with crack. The "War on Drugs" was beginning a dramatic run-up in the US prison population, accelerating a climb that had begun earlier. Simultaneously, nazi boneheads were making their emergence in the US. Skrewdriver and No Remorse, and Blood and Honour became vehicles for nazis to recruit white youth. Metzger of White Aryan Resistance in San Diego assigned his son to the WARskins.

Those were the conditions under which PART came to be, as a direct action anti-racist group, opposed to white supremacy, committed to solidarity with liberation forces among African, indigenous/Mexicano, and Asian people in the US. It was one among many small, grass-roots efforts to fight back, to concentrate fledgling anti-racism among youth into an organized force. For example, the Baldies from Minneapolis were traveling the Midwest and East Coast hooking up with other anti-racist skins to beat back the Nazi menace.

Our first action was a rally against a speech in Glendale by Birmingham church bomber J.B. Stoner. Several thousand turned out, resulting in the cancellation of his appearance at the library. Protesters marched on the Holiday Inn, where local racists had booked a meeting room to hear Stoner. Several young boneheads got a licking from people in the crowd. The cops declared it an illegal assembly, brought out a water cannon and shut local freeway off-ramps to prevent others from joining in.

But the groups that arose at the time, concerned about racist violence, boneheads, and racism in police and prisons diverged over a period of a few years. Those like Portland's Coalition for Human Dignity that chose non-profit status and identified the problem as "extremism," briefly grew larger and well-endowed, but faded into irrelevance, corporate domination and eventually disappeared. Others, like Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice and ARA (Anti-Racist Action Network), took a more confrontational, dissident stance. ARA has stayed true to its mission, despite ups and downs. PART was involved with ARA from its inception, participating in the first conference (in Portland for the civil trial of Metzger for the bonehead murder of an Ethiopian). We eventually changed our name to ARA-LA (retaining PART as a kind of subtitle).

But the high hopes we had for a mass anti-racist movement among white youth failed to pan out. Congressional hearings on Iran-Contra amounted to a cover-up. Reagan, deserving impeachment, was allowed to plead forgetfulness, and Bush was let off the hook to run for president, using racialized fear of Willie Horton to win. Reforms (what George Jackson described as the operative form of fascism) took the steam out of the anti-apartheid movement. "Low intensity" conflict in Central America and the war in Panama blunted movements for liberation and rendered peace and solidarity forces in the US ineffectual. Amnesty for undocumented divided the Mexicano indigenous population between those born here, legal residents, naturalized citizens and the undocumented.

The Rainbow Coalition of 1984 and '88 kept people wedded to the Democrats as a vehicle for the presidential ambitions of Jesse Jackson. It stifled a more radical opposition to racism and empire that had been reasserting itself. The prison movement struggled ineffectually against the push for mass incarceration and the prison-industrial complex, as prisoners climbed above one million, and then above two million. The first Gulf War marked the ability of the state to overcome the "Vietnam Syndrome" of domestic opposition to overseas invasions.

The peace movement collapsed once the "Desert Storm" invasion started and was unable to link itself up with the movement against racist, militarist law enforcement in this country. Eventually, the LA rebellion of 1992 (over the unpunished police beating of Rodney King), and the inability of George H. W. Bush to put across NAFTA, led to the elite anointing of Bill Clinton.

ARA had some noteworthy successes in that period, when many were fooled by Clinton's rhetoric.

ARA activists were instrumental in a confrontation that embarrassed Secretary of State Madeline Albright at OSU and helped forestall military action against Iraq. Locally, ARA-LA/PART helped build such efforts as the Pro-Immigrant Mobilization Coalition against Prop. 187 in 1994, the Crack the CIA Coalition, the Jericho Amnesty Coalition to free political prisoners, a 6000-strong protest on "criminal injustice" themes at the 2000 Democratic Convention that attracted mostly local young people, and a Campaign for Community Control of Police at the time of the Rampart cop scandal. But lack of consistency, political infighting, and internalized racism damaged or destroyed most of those coalition efforts. Locally and internationally,

ARA has been unable to build on its successes or to translate them into an operational form and growth strategy that attracts new and sustains veteran members, or turns a wider cultural influence into an organic, accountable organization.

Internationally, ARA has been repeatedly damaged by political immaturity, sexism, and an inability to move beyond a reactive strategy focused too exclusively on street-level confrontation with open nazis. ARA lacks a proactive strategy to take on all fascist forces in this society or establish an affirmative solidarity with liberation forces among colonized and racially-stigmatized peoples. ARA has no clear work-plan or accountable implementation mechanisms for attracting, educating and integrating new members and chapters, or sustaining veterans.

Clearly, the times demand more of us. 20-odd years ago, peoples' movements forced Congress to cut off funding for the Contra/death squad wars in Nicaragua and Guatemala, blocked reactionary anti-choice Supreme Court nominees, won legalization for millions of undocumented. But our inability to build off those victories – rooted in white supremacist, class-collaborationist illusions about the nature of the imperial system and its irreconcilable contradiction with all people it colonizes, oppresses and exploits -- left us paradoxically weaker, demoralized, and incapable of resisting new initiatives by the Empire.

So today, we face a war in Iraq where US casualties at over 3000 exceed those over the first four years of the war in Vietnam, where Iraqi civilian casualties are at genocidal proportions. Current hostilities have lasted longer than US involvement in World War II; US aggression in Iraq since Desert Storm has lasted longer than Vietnam. Yet the response to an electoral rejection of the war is a proposed escalation, even after all the lies and crimes have been exposed.

We face a situation where a court ruling against detention without trial resulted in passage of a law, the Military Commissions Act, with bipartisan support, that "legalized" such detentions and made them possible for domestic dissent by "citizens." We see incarceration increasing past 2 million, and imprisonment of Black women at record disproportionate levels. Serial killings of indigenous women are spreading throughout NAFTA. Militarization of the border and federalization of local police to hunt immigrants have emboldened nazis to participate openly in vigilante actions and in widespread political action. War crimes and state terror by the Empire go unpunished.

In southern CA and elsewhere, nazi boneheads again pose a growing threat of racist violence, and commercial record labels are beginning to merchandise white power music like "Woodpile." Nazis coming in to LA to demonstrate in memory of Robert Mathews, the founder of the racist underground "Order," (who died in a shootout with the Feds) stabbed two Black men in Claremont recently. And open nazis have participated in local anti-immigrant provocations waving swastikas and Confederate flags.

We face an environmental crisis so extreme that the damage to polar and glacial ice, the climate, and the entire marine eco-system may already be irreversible. The empire has destroyed and ethnically dispersed a major US city. And in response, we produce videos, publish blogs, hold ritualistic marches and write letters to Congress.

What can turn this around, and begin the process of anti-racist, anti-colonialist forces taking the offensive? First, we must recognize and align with the priorities and strategies of anti-imperialist forces among people of color. These include resisting the dispersal of Black people from New Orleans and the Gulf Coast; defending the rights of migrants; and challenging the militarization and privatization of the police, the prisons, the schools and the border.

As fundamental is recognizing that the contradiction between us and the Empire can't be reconciled or reformed. Worse, that contradiction is reflected and recreated within us as well, a contradiction between our commitment to a future of human liberation and solidarity and our identification with the Empire and the oppressor. The struggle against racism and colonialism is first of all a self-critical struggle.

For Europeans, identification with the oppressor takes the form of class collaboration, individualism, elitism and in particular acceptance of white privilege, the poison pill that condemns us to half-measures and self-defeating tactics of reformism and accommodation. In oppressed and colonized communities, it takes the form of defeatism, neo-colonialism or attraction to reactionary models of development.

Steven Biko taught us that the greatest weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed. By breaking that grip, we unleash our real power and expose their true weakness. The liberating power of Malcolm X and ML King Jr., of Huey and Assata lay in their ability to combine loving self-criticism of the oppressed with uncompromising criticism of the oppressor, unrelenting resistance to oppression with a sense of the people's power when we stand up. If liberation among the oppressed relies on self-criticism of collaboration and a call to sacrifice, how can these be less necessary to drive a wedge into the reactionary base of Empire among the privileged?

Recognize that privilege is also a form of social domination and control, a form of discipline. A privilege is not ours by right; it's conferred for good behavior and can be taken away. The price of privilege is dignity, autonomy and the capacity to shape a free and sustainable future. The fight for such a future goes hand in hand with a fight against privilege, elitism, and authoritarianism, and for international solidarity.

New Claims of Abu-Jamal Confession Surface After 25 years as Mumia Nears his Final Appeal

by Hans Bennett

Twenty five years ago, Black death-row prisoner and journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal was arrested for the murder of white Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. He was later convicted in a 1982 trial that Amnesty International has declared a "violation of minimum international standards that govern fair trial procedures and the use of the death penalty."

In the weeks leading up to Dec. 9 (25th anniversary of Abu-Jamal's 1981 arrest), there were numerous stories in the Philadelphia press. Future Philadelphia mayoral candidate Chaka Fattah (currently a US congressman) came under attack by the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) because he has long supported a new trial for Abu-Jamal. Despite the FOP threat that they would actively campaign against his mayoral bid, Fattah stood by his support for a new trial. However, just days later, he voted for a congressional resolution condemning the French city of St. Denis for naming a major street after Abu-Jamal (passed 368-31).

Fattah said in a statement that despite being unconvinced that justice was served in the case, he voted for the resolution because "anyone who stands convicted of so terrible an offense is an affront to those who risk their lives on a daily basis to serve."

"The House action," said Pam Africa, chair of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, "is designed to weigh in on and promote an atmosphere in the U.S. judiciary that is prejudicial to Mumia's receiving any form of justice today."

Also noteworthy was a public concession from Joseph McGill (who was the prosecutor at Abu-Jamal's 1982 trial) in the Philadelphia Inquirer that Abu-Jamal could have been convicted of a lesser homicide charge if he had waged a "true defense."

Two More People Say Mumia Confessed?

While these two news pieces were important, perhaps the most shocking story to emerge was a Dec. 8 NBC 10 story reporting that two more people now say that they heard Abu-Jamal confess at the hospital before treatment for his gunshot wound.

NBC 10 reports that on Dec. 9, 1981 William Colarulo (now a Chief Inspector for the Philadelphia police) was a "rookie cop assigned to guard the door to the emergency room." Colarulo told NBC 10 that after Abu-Jamal arrived at the hospital, he confessed to his then partner Tom Brady.

"He said to my partner something to the effect, 'I'm glad I shot the M-F'. That's what my partner said (Abu-Jamal) told him," Colarulo said (apparently relegating his remarks to hearsay; he is claiming his partner told him Mumia confessed, not that he heard Mumia confess.

The second new account from that morning comes from Kathleen Gerrow. Now an executive producer at NBC 10, Gerrow was a radio reporter in 1981 covering the story at the hospital. "I distinctly remember a very distinctive voice shouting, 'I shot the mother f-----er, I shot the mother f----er," said Gerrow.

Pam Africa argues that these two new accounts show that the pro-execution lobby "is getting desperate. While these new accounts are supposed to strengthen the case against Mumia, they actually further expose the confession story as a fraud. In 1982 it was unbelievable that police forgot about the confession for two months, Now we're supposed to believe that it took 25 years for these new people to remember it?"

Africa emphasizes that these new accounts come just months before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments and then decide if Abu-Jamal deserves a new trial. The FOP and other pro-execution forces "are scared that Mumia will get a new trial and years of injustice will be exposed. This is a desperate attempt to sway public opinion against Mumia."

The Hospital Confession: a Contentious History

Arguably the strongest evidence presented against Abu-Jamal in court, the "hospital confession" has long been one of the most contentious issues in the debate between the pro and anti-Mumia factions, and has been cited by Amnesty International as one of the reasons the organization calls for a new trial.

The first report of Abu-Jamal confessing to the murder of Faulkner came from the high-ranking Inspector Alfonso Giordano (former Captain of the Civil Defense unit). Arriving at 13th & Locust within minutes, Giordano claimed that Abu-Jamal confessed to him while lying in the police wagon. While the Philadelphia Bulletin immediately reported that Mumia "admitted shooting the police officer in a brief comment to Police Inspector Giordano," the prosecution did not cite this during the 1982 trial, likely because of credibility issues. Shortly after Mumia's arrest, Giordano resigned after learning that he was under federal investigation for corruption. Years later he pled guilty to federal charges of tax evasion for not reporting at least $55,000 earned from extortion in 1979 and 1980.

The first official police account of the "hospital confession" was suspiciously introduced two months after Abu-Jamal's arrest. When interviewed (in February, 1982) by the police Internal Affairs Bureau investigating Mumia's police brutality complaint, Officers Wakshul, Bell, and hospital security guard Priscilla Durham then reported Mumia's supposed "hospital confession" for the first time.

Mumia allegedly declared (in the presence of 15-20 other cops who have never confirmed it): "I shot the motherfucker and I hope the motherfucker dies!"

Testifying in 1982, Bell (Faulkner's partner and "best friend") claimed the two-month-long mental lapse resulted from being so upset about Faulkner's death.

At trial, Durham contradicted her statement to police and testified that she reported the confession to her supervisor the next day. While neither her supervisor nor the alleged hand-written statement was presented in court, the DA sent an officer to the hospital -- returning with a suspicious typed version of the alleged report. Sabo accepted the paper (not signed or dated) despite both Durham's disavowal of it (because it was typed and not hand-written) and the defense's protest that there was no establishment of authorship or authenticity.

Unfortunately, the jury never heard the most explosive evidence discrediting the confession. While the DA called Bell and Durham to testify, Wakshul was suspiciously absent. On the final day of testimony in 1982, Mumia's lawyer discovered Wakshul's statement from Dec.9he morning of the shooting. After riding with Mumia to the hospital and guarding him until his treatment, Wakshul official report stated: "the negro male made no comment."

When the defense immediately sought to call Wakshul as a witness, the DA reported that he was on vacation. On grounds that it was too late in the trial, Sabo denied the defense request to locate him for testimony. Consequently, the jury never heard from Wakshul or about his written report. When an outraged Mumia protested, Sabo cruelly declared: "You and your attorney goofed."

Gary Wakshul Publicly Beaten

Wakshul's "negro male" report was key evidence at the post-conviction appeal (PCRA) hearings, and it was well-known that he would have to testify to defend his "confession" story. Unknown to Mumia's lawyers, on July 13 (days before his PCRA testimony) Wakshul was savagely beaten by undercover police officers in front of a Judge in the Common Pleas Courtroom where he worked as a court crier. Almost two years later, the two attackers (members of Philly's Vice Squad) were suspended without pay as punishment. With the motive still unexplained, the beating was likely used to intimidate Wakshul into maintaining his "confession" story at the PCRA hearings.

On the stand, Wakshul defended both his Dec. 9 report and the two-month delay as just being a bad mistake. Further discrediting the "confession" story, he repeated his incredible statement given to the IAB investigator in 1982: "I didn't realize it had any importance until that day."

The original trial's injustice was further exposed when Wakshul testified to being home for his 1982 vacation in accordance with explicit instructions to stay in town for the trial so that he could testify if called.

The "confession" story has been thoroughly discredited. As Amnesty International concluded: "The likelihood of two police officers and a security guard forgetting or neglecting to report the confession of a suspect in the killing of another police officer for more than two months strains credulity."

25 Years of Lies

Advocates of Abu-Jamal's execution say the "hospital confession" reveals Abu-Jamal to be an unrepentant killer--more than just proof of guilt. On the other end of the spectrum, supporters of Abu-Jamal argue that holes in the police account expose fabricated testimony. In a recent essay contextualizing these new accounts within the 25-year execution campaign, longtime Abu-Jamal supporter Kevin Price has written that "these two new stories are weak attempts to piece together a fabricated confession that has long since crumbled. A quarter century later the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) are still desperately attempting to complete the task that they failed in 1981: the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal."

"In 1981, Mumia Abu-Jamal was shot with a bullet through the lung, and had his head repeatedly rammed into a steel pole. In this critical condition he was driven around Philadelphia in the back of a police paddy wagon for nearly an hour (even though the hospital was within a few blocks) as the police waited for him to die. Since Mumia did not die, the state's next best option was to fabricate evidence and railroad him."

Hans Bennett has been documenting the movement to free Mumia and all political prisoners for over five years. Please check out his new website:

insubordination.blogspot.com

This article is the latest installment in Bennett's series on Abu-Jamal focusing on Abu-Jamal's upcoming oral arguments before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Check out the new series at:

hbjournalist1.googlepages.com/ms

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The Taming of The Democrats

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Since the recent Democratic wins in the U.S. House and Senate, there has been a concerted effort from the corporate media to evoke from them pre-installation promises of moderation, and a mass denial that there are any plans to impeach a widely unpopular President, George W. Bush. There has been equally aggressive attention paid to House Speaker-elect, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), who makes history as the first American woman to reach what is essentially the third most powerful office in the nation

With few exceptions, most outspoken legislators have pooh-poohed the idea of impeaching the President, even before there have been hearings into the events that led to the ruinous disaster in Iraq. Columnists lecture, "It would be too divisive." Others decry such talks as 'radical.'

What is More Radical than War?

Why are the same voices and institutions that led the cheer-leading squad to war now setting the parameters of acceptable political debate and activity?

Perhaps the most influential newspaper in the U.S., the *New York Times*, used its front pages as a virtual billboard for the Bush administration. High-ranking people like Vice-President Dick Cheney, and Secretary of State (then National Security Advisor), Condoleeza Rice quoted the *NYT* incessantly in the run-up to the Iraq War. Pulitzer Prize-winning *Times* reporter, Judith Miller essentially served as a scribe for the White House.

It was press scrutiny that led to the recent downfall of outspoken anti-war figure, Congressman John Murtha (Dem.-Pa.) in the race for House Majority Whip, using grainy tapes from almost 3 decades ago -- the FBI ABSCAM attempts to bust corrupt politicians. It certainly appears like the so-called 'Washington consensus' was unilaterally opposed to Murtha in the Whip post, for it would have provided the critic with a platform that could not be easily ignored. It was precisely this so-called 'consensus' that lined up to support the Iraq adventure, virtually without a whisper of dissent.

It very well may be the case that these same forces wanted to humble the House Speaker-elect. And yet it was this same alleged 'consensus' (driven, to be sure, by the mad neocons in the White House, the Defense Dept. and the corporate think tanks) that led to this mess.

Consensus, here in the US, is actually the agreement of a fairly narrow slice of the US (and sometimes foreign) elite. In the brief but brilliant book, *Behind the Invasion of Iraq* (N.Y.: Monthly Review Press, 2003) written by the Humbai, India-based Research Unit for Political Economy, this theme is argued quite strongly:

"Typically apart from legislators and the press, a proliferation of research institutes, semi-governmental bodies, and academic forums circulate proposals voicing the case of one or the other lobby (leaving the administration free to deny that they constitute official policy). These proposals elicit objections from other interests, through similar media. Other powerful countries press their interests, directly or indirectly; and the entire discussion, in the light of the strength of the respective interests, helps shape the course of action finally adopted and helps coalesce the various ruling class sections around it. (This process, of course, has nothing to do with democratic debate, since the *people* are excluded as participants, and are included only as a factor to be taken into account)."

We shouldn't haggle with theory here. One need only recall the unprecedented mass pre-war protests, all around the nation, and abroad. The experts and think tank types decried the ignorance of the masses, but time has proven that the mass demonstrations were right. Now, the Democrats, being seduced by the lobbyists, the media, and the know-it-alls (who might best be called 'the know-nothings') are being persuaded to be bipartisan; to take impeachment off the table; to cool that rap about ending the war.

That, like before, is the recipe for disaster, for it ignores the people who turned out to vote, largely disgusted with Bush's war. People are sick to the soul about Iraq.

If they ignore the public mood, they will, once again, be digging their political graves. For this war, from beginning to now, has been an unholy disaster, causing the deaths of at least a half-million people. That ain't impeachable?

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Abu-Jamal's recent book features a chapter on the remarkable women who helped build and defend the Black Panther Party: *WE WANT FREEDOM: A Life in the Black Panther Party*, from South End Press, 1-800-533-8478 (http://www.southendpress.org).

The campaign to kill Mumia is in full swing and we need you to contact as many publications and information outlets as you possibly can to run Mumia's commentaries (on-line and in print). The only requirements are that you run them *unedited*, with every word including copyright information intact, and send a copy of the publication to Mumia and/or ICFFMAJ. THANK YOU! Keep updated by reading ACTION ALERTS at http://www.mumia.org, http://www.onamove.com/ and their links. To download Mp3's of Mumia's commentaries visit http://www.prisonradio.org or http://www.fsrn.org

The Power of Truth is Final -- Free Mumia!

PLEASE CONTACT:

International Concerned Family & Friends of MAJ
P.O. Box 19709
Philadelphia, PA 19143
215-476-8812/ Fax - 215-476-6180
icffmaj@aol.com

Send our brotha some LOVE and LIGHT at:

Mumia Abu-Jamal
AM 8335
SCI-Greene
175 Progress Drive
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Appeal for Support for Boots and the Coup

by Boots Riley

So, we got on the bus after doing a show at The House of Blues San Diego as part of The Coup/Mr. Lif tour. As the bus took off, I thought that I would go lay in my bunk, listen to my Ipod, and write. But then Zhara, Mr. Lif's friend and the tour's merchandise seller, announced that she had "Anchorman" on DVD. Oh Shit. Will Ferrell or writing? Hot 16s would have to wait tonight. Good Night San Diego! So I stayed up in the front lounge of the bus and, even though I've seen this movie twice, commenced to laugh my ass off.

Almost literally, because of what happened next. Shortly after the acapella singing of "Afternoon Delight" by Ferrell et al., a big bump, then another, then plummeting down as the whole bus tipped over to the left.

I was sitting in the diner-like booth that many of these buses have in the front. I held on to the table with one hand and tried to guard my head with the other, all the while thinking that I was probably about to die.

I don't remember seeing everyone flying and flipping around me as it was happening, but Carter's (the road manager) and Wiz's faces were covered in blood, and everybody seemed to be lying around hurt. The bus was on its side, with the entrance door up. I called for people to say their names so we could get a head count of who was conscious or not.

Silk E, Q (drums), Riccol (bass), and Metro (Lif's hype man) were trapped in the back lounge because the doors connecting the front and back lounges to the bunks were electrically powered and didn't move with no power on. They ended up ripping and squeezing their way out of a tiny little window and jumped down off the bus as the rest of us got out the front. If anyone had been sleeping in the bunks, they would not have been able to get out.

I was the third person to jump off the front of the bus, as I hung down to make the jump shorter, I saw that the front of the bus was on fire. I yelled to everyone, saying to get off the bus immediately because the bus was on fire and it could blow up. We all did. No one was killed. The bus was totally engulfed in flames. For a while no one stopped to help, supposedly because the thought we were "illegal aliens" crossing the border. Eventually some great folks stopped and helped.

Silk E has two broken ribs and a punctured lung. Wiz has a broken nose, two deep lacerations to the head, and a shattered knee. Zhara has injuries to her hand and had to undergo surgery. Carter had to get stitches to his head and lip. The driver, Glenn, has a broken jaw. All of the first three will be in need of follow-up treatments. We all have aching backs, legs, heads etc. Many of us are on pain killers.

We lost everything in that crash and fire. We were packed to live and do shows on that bus for a month. Most of us had every stitch of clothing we owned on there. We lost clothes, computers, recording equipment, cameras, IDs, phones, keys to cars and homes. We lost cash. We lost all our damn instruments and equipment to perform with.

We were and are happy to walk away with our lives. But now we're home. Most of the band touring with The Coup has kids, rent that won't quit, bills, and holiday expenses coming. We need money, because like I said the band doesn't have the tools that they make a living with. Not only did we lose cash and material things on the bus, but we also were depending on this tour for money to make it through. It may take a year for us to see any money from the insurance company.

Boots Riley and Pam the Funktress of the Coup

I have set up a Paypal account so people can make donations for The Coup. The money will be split between me (Boots Riley), Silk E, Q, Steve Wyreman (guitar), and Riccol. Mr. Lif is setting one up on his site and when I have that info, we'll let you know. http://www.myspace.com/thecoupmusic To make a donation, hit button in the "about" section on the front page of this profile, right below the paragraph and above the "We Are The Ones" video. This allows you to donate even without a paypal account. If you have an account, ours is thecoupbuscrash@gmail.com. Thank you in advance to anyone who does this, this is a really crazy situation. I never thought I would be doing something like this. I also never thought that we would almost die like like that. We're grateful for anything you can do.

Thank you, *Boots Riley*

P. S. Thank you for the messages of love and warmth we've been receiving. It makes a difference.

Defend Toledo Anti-Fascist Protester Donell Summers!

by Noah Learned, *ARA Network Toledo Defense Working Group*

Donell Summers, a North Toledo resident, is now locked in a legal battle over charges stemming from his arrest in the course of the Anti-Nazi demonstration that turned into the historic October 15th Uprising, after a police riot was initiated by the Toledo Police Department. Donell sought to peacefully protest against the genocidal menace that was attempting to parade through his community.

While he was exercising his right to publicly protest against the Nazis, police on horseback charged into the demonstration. As Donell attempted to avoid a charging horse, Toledo Police arrested him. Of the 110 people arrested that day, most of them community members, Donell is the ONLY one to take his case to trial. Many other members of his community were essentially railroaded into bad plea bargains, where they were given unofficial promises that were never delivered on. Among these many examples was a close acquaintance of Donell's who was sentenced to 60 days in jail, after being given the informal impression by prosecutors that he could expect community service.

The Anti-Racist Action Network is currently trying to raise $3500 to help with Donnel's legal fees. It's very important that all those who support the right to protest, community self-determination, and just due process, contribute to Donell's legal defense in any way that they can. We must support the idea that we have a right and responsibility to resist hate.

We are also asking that people write and call the Toledo Prosecutor's office and ask that Donnel's charge of aggravated riot be dropped.

A victory for Donell will go a long way toward securing the rights of all those Toledo residents arrested for daring to challenge the message of Nazism. Lasandra Burrwell, a wife and mother, was cruelly sentenced to 5 years in prison for her opposition to Nazism. She received this sentence as a part of a plea bargain. A victory in Donell's case, could set a precedent in favor of other members of the community who are pursuing justice in the courts. It also develops that Lasandra is eligible to appeal and a victory in Donell's case will establish momentum to press for her release.

It is important to consider the case of the people of North Toledo. If the world had seen more communities like this one, perhaps the Holocaust and World War II would never have happened. It is communities like these that battled the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto, fought against Jim Crow, and brought down Apartheid in South Africa. Those of us on the side of freedom, dignity, and equality should defend their efforts.

Donell Summers was peacefully engaging in his legal right to public protest. The Toledo police suppressed this right with an illegal arrest, and the court system is trying to suppress his freedom with their railroading plea bargains and kangaroo courts.

The Anti-Racist Action Network urgently requests that you contribute any sum that you can, however small to Donell Summers' legal defense fund and show your solidarity with political prisoners all over the world. To donate please visit:

http://tinyurl.com/ydk585 (www.arastore.com)

Please contact Lucas County Prosecutor Julia R. Bates and politely demand the immediate dismissal of charges against Donell Summers. By mail: Lucas County Courthouse, Adams and Erie Streets, Toledo, OH 43604, or call (419) 213-4700

Communiqué from Somewhere in the State of Oaxaca, from the State Council of the Popular Peoples' Assembly of Oaxaca (CEAPPO)

December 3, 2006
PEOPLE OF OAXACA! PEOPLE OF MEXICO! PEOPLE OF THE WORLD!
From somewhere in the state of Oaxaca, as the State Council of the Popular Peoples' Assembly of Oaxaca,
WE DECLARE:

FIRST: The APPO is more alive than ever in the hearts of the workers, indigenous people, campesinos, housewives, students, youth, children, and all the exploited and oppressed in Oaxaca and Mexico. The State Terror that has been unleashed on the people of Oaxaca and the international community with increased brutality since November 25 has not weakened our desire to be free men and women.

Nor has it made us change our minds about whether our struggle should continue to be a political, peaceful and mass movement, despite the fact that 17 people have been killed during this stage of the struggle, dozens of people have disappeared and hundreds are political prisoners; we consider this toll to consist of crimes against humanity.

SECOND: The APPO continues to act permanently; although we are not visible at sentries or heard over the radio 24 hours a day, we still live and communicate with the same indomitable spirit which we have inherited as exploited people. We are fighting and will continue to fight intensely for the fall of the tyrant and his dictatorship, the dictatorship of capital.

This new stage of struggle that we have named the Stage of Peace with Justice, Democracy and Liberty without Ulises Ruiz Ortiz is, at the same time, a novel exercise to continue the struggle that the APPO is learning to build with patience, perseverance and wisdom.

Our original peoples taught us this on November 28-29, at the Forum of Indigenous Peoples of Oaxaca, when they told us that "the path must be taken slowly." This is what we are doing now, without losing sight of the common objective, which is the profound transformation of living, working, academic and recreational conditions for our people. As the faithful puppet of the wealthy and the drug traffickers who he defends and represents, URO (Ulises Ruiz) stood in the way of this path. As representatives of a people who decided to embark on the route to their own emancipation, we will remove him from this path that belongs to us.

THIRD: The Council is calling all people of Oaxaca from now until December 10 to organize and carry out mobilizations and protest actions to spread the "Stage of Peace:" the call for the release of political prisoners, the return of the disappeared, the cancellation of orders of apprehension, an end to illegal arrests, an end to gag orders, the withdrawal of the Federal Preventive Police (PFP), and what brought us all together: the departure of the murderer Ulises Ruiz from Oaxaca. We call for this to happen in all regions of the state through our regional, municipal and sectorial Popular Assemblies.

We do so because on December 10 we will hold a Grand Concentration, meeting at 10am at the monument to Juárez, located at the Crucero de Viguera in Oaxaca City, to express our condemnation of and opposition to the baton and rifle policy to which this group of murderers and thieves who call themselves the government in Oaxaca want to subject us.

Fraternally,

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!
STATE COUNCIL OF THE APPO

The APPO Lives
http://www.narconews.com/Issue44/article2440.html

A.R.A. ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK
FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) WE GO WHERE THEY GO: When fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the streets!

2) WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK: This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we rely on ourselves to protect ourselves & stop the fascists.

3) NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS: In ARA, we have different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement, an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, class exploitation, repression, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a classless society. **WE INTEND TO WIN!**

The Gas Chamber:

A Venice Beach Pepper Spray Horror Movie

by Peggy Lee Kennedy venicesantamonicafnb@fastmail.fm

Roll the video: Officer David Guiterman casually leans to his left, pulls out his pepper spray from its holster, shakes it deliberately, leans forward into the opening of the patrol car and sprays Benjamin Barker right in the face for four or five seconds. Count it out: 1-1000, 2-1000... as Mr. Barker is handcuffed in the back seat pleading, "Don't spray me, please!" The officers then shut all the doors – creating a gas chamber of pepper spray inside. Barker appears to convulse and struggle to breathe while Officer Guiterman, two other officers, and LAPD Venice Beach Sub-Station Supervisor Sgt. Burrus, all stand outside as if nothing is happening.

LAPD Officer Guiterman (leaning in behind door) pepper sprays prisoner Benjamin Barker handcuffed inside patrol car.

--Photo from video tape taken at the scene by Calvin Moss, Venice-Santa Monica Food Not Bombs

Calvin Moss, Food Not Bombs activist and co-founder of our Venice Justice Committee, captured that Feb. 2005 LAPD Venice Beach pepper spray incident on tape. The video was seen recently with a flurry of other police abuse episodes on CNN, ABC, etc. as if part of a transitory epidemic of police abuse.

The pepper spray tape and our Justice Committee grew from our Food Not Bombs activity. We were trained in non-violent resistance by the National Lawyer's Guild to oppose anti-feeding, anti-homeless laws passed by the Santa Monica. We sought further training in CopWatch and video advocacy to document the human rights violations happening around us. This included training by Paul Mills of Police Watch LA and Michael Zinzun, former Black Panther and co-founder of the Coalition Against Police Abuse (CAPA). Zinzun (may he rest in peace) suggested we form a Justice Committee.

That February night, we watched the video over and over, re-living the incident, trying to get the victim's name or the number he was calling out and trying to figure out what we should do. We thought the victim's name might be Parker, but he wasn't in good shape even before Guiterman pepper sprayed him. Barker was crying and appeared disabled and disoriented, which made the excessive force more egregious. He had hospital bandages on both wrists and kept sobbing loudly about how he was hurting: his leg, his rib, his wrist. Also upsetting about the tape was how many people just walked by on the Boardwalk, as though it was OK, or he must deserve it.

We called Paul Mills and talked about what we should do with the tape. The decision was to contact John Raphling, an attorney at the LA County Public Defender's office, assigned to the LAX (Airport) Courthouse. Raphling had previously helped our Justice Committee by successfully defending a Venice woman LA prosecuted for living in her vehicle. Raphling reassured us that he would try to get this man justice. He located Barker, who was being arraigned at the LAX Courthouse, and used our tape to defend him. The officers present when Barker was pepper sprayed and arrested - Officers Guiterman, Thusing, Eguez, and Sgt. Burrus – had all lied on the police report.

Officer Guiterman said that he ordered Barker "to sit down and he did, he sat in the rear of the car with his feet out." Close review of the video shows Officer Eguez apparently pulling Barker in the car from the other side by the handcuffs, which must have been painful. Barker cried in pain while this was happening. It's possible Barker's feet were out of the car, but he was not combative and was answering Guiterman's questions.

Guiterman said Barker took a deep breath and began to spit on him, but the video doesn't show this. Guiterman wrote, "I moved my head to the left and avoided the spit." Definitively, this head movement never happened in the video. At no time that Barker was seated in the car does Guiterman or any officer make a sudden move or reaction to avoid something Barker did or might do. He wrote Barker continued to be aggressive and combative, which is also untrue. Barker sits in the car whining and crying. He wasn't physically doing anything when Guiterman pepper sprayed him.

Officer Peggy Thusing was standing next to Guiterman. She wrote she saw him move to avoid being spat on, that he took a step back, and was four feet away from Barker when he sprayed. In the video Guiterman leaned in - face first - and was nearly on top of Barker when he sprayed him. The fact he leans in face first contradicts his claim that the spraying was done in defense against spitting.

Officer Eguez said he seat-belted Barker in the car and by the time he came around the other side, he learned of the pepper spraying. In the video, he seems to know what's happening before he comes to the other side. As Eguez walks around the back of the car he is commenting about the spray and was smiling or even laughing while the spraying happened.

Sgt. Burrus, the commanding officer, was standing a few feet away. He wrote Barker was standing outside the car, spat at Guiterman, and refused to get in until after Guiterman used the pepper spray. The videotape clearly shows Guiterman pepper spraying Barker while he was sitting down in the car. If Barker ever spat on Guiterman, it could only have happened well before the spraying, which makes the spraying an act of revenge.

The truth in our videotape did help Benjamin Barker find some justice. We helped get him out of jail. Raphling was able to show the tape to the prosecutor who dismissed charges for resisting and battery on a police officer. People abused by the police frequently get charged with crimes such as resisting arrest or battery on a police officer.

If there's evidence or even a credible witness to an excessive use of force violation committed by law enforcement, calling the local Public Defender's office should definitely be considered, especially if the victim can not be contacted directly. The Metropolitan area courts, jails, and public defender's offices are all arranged together in jurisdictions. For example, when a person is arrested in Venice, they are arraigned at the Airport (LAX) Courthouse.

Barker choking inside sealed squad car filled with pepper spray.

Raphling now has a private practice as a civil rights and criminal defense attorney in Venice and is no longer with the Public Defender's office, but contacting him proved fruitful to our pursuit of justice. Those who have had negative experiences with Public Defenders may be surprised to learn that most of the attorneys in the LAX PD's office watched our tape and took an interest in the case. Having strong evidence can help any attorney mount a defense.

Other options are to go straight to the press (like with Rodney King and KTLA) if the evidence is sensational enough; to file a complaint with internal affairs against the officer(s) for excessive use of force or other misconduct; or to contact a reputable civil rights attorney who may be able to get the victim compensation and apply pressure for departmental reform. The central factor for this kind of evidence or documentation is letting victims benefit from the evidence.

We consider the pepper spray tape one of our Justice Committee successes. It's no real surprise to us the police report conflicted with our video, but some lingering sober questions regarding our so-called justice system still remain. Where does a poor person get justice without such a video? Are all police reports full of these kinds of discrepancies? How many defenseless people are in prison based on lies? Can these systemic problems be resolved in the existing police culture?

These questions may be too hard to address in an article about one police abuse incident, but there should clearly be independent monitoring of the police and more accountability. According to Raphling, "This case illustrates ...that LAPD is not capable of policing itself and that we need real, independent civilian monitors with a real investigative budget, real investigative powers and authority to discipline." He showed our tape to the head prosecutor for the City Attorney's Office at LAX Courthouse and suggested charges be filed against the officer for a violation of P.C. 147: "Every officer ... guilty of willful inhumanity or oppression toward any prisoner under his care or in his custody, is punishable by fine not exceeding four thousand dollars, and removal from office." The City Attorney's office declined to file charges and appears to have done nothing to discipline these officers.

Sergeants Pape and Adams from the LAPD Professional Standards Bureau, Internal Affairs Group, and Criminal Investigation Division (that's what was on the business card) did come and interview Calvin and me regarding the tape. Calvin told them the pepper spraying was inappropriate, sadistic behavior. He told them the officer was torturing Barker. When Pape interviewed me, I told him that not only should Guiterman be disciplined, but so should the other officers who just stood there and did nothing to stop the abuse.

When he talked to us, Pape kept bringing up things Barker had allegedly done - things not on the tape, things we did not see - implying Barker deserved to be pepper sprayed. At the time we didn't know the content of the police report and the lies about Barker spitting, but we had been there. We witnessed the incident, Calvin videotaped it, and we knew what was on the video. What I assumed to be an LAPD investigation of excessive force by Officer Guiterman went more like an investigation of us.

John Raphling sent the video and the false reports to the agency contracted by the federal court to monitor the consent decree overseeing the LAPD. He was told that the video had made its way to Chief Bratton, and he was assured that they would discipline the officers, but nothing happened.

In April 2006, Raphling and Carol Sobel, president of the NLG-LA showed the video, along with another showing similar brutal police abuse on the Venice Boardwalk, to Connie Rice for her report on the progress of LAPD reform under the consent decree. The other video was my neighbor's son being pepper sprayed on the Boardwalk after being handcuffed and subdued by LAPD. Though this second video indicated a pattern, and Raphling believes the videos were again sent to top people in LAPD, the department took no action to discipline officers or tighten policy.

In Nov. 2006, our pepper spray video was released to the media after a sensational police abuse incident in which a beating taped on a cell phone camera was posted on a popular web site. At the press conference that followed, Bratton admitted he'd received our videotape 15 months earlier, but hadn't made a determination of whether the police had acted "within policy." The chief defended his officers' actions and later announced the evidence was "inconclusive" as to whether these officers violated LAPD policy. In the words of Attorney John Raphling, "Chief Bratton, by his actions, has shown that he approves of these abusive and cruel policing tactics."

We hope more people will document, report, and complain about police abuse. A few things to know when witnessing police incidents:

- **Ask officers for their cards.** *You do not have to tell them why. In LA, they're supposed to give you their name, badge number and supervisor.*
- **Take names and numbers** of witnesses and, if possible, get the name of the victim.
- **You have a constitutional right to witness**, but use common sense about your distance.
- **Know your rights** and learn about dealing with police. Midnight Special law collective is a good place to start: ***www.midnightspecial.net***

Bear in mind the abusive use of pepper spray on Benjamin Barker happened in broad daylight, with plenty of witnesses, and the police knew they were being filmed. What happens when no one is watching and no one is there who cares enough to do something?

Peggy Kennedy is a founder of Venice-Santa Monica Food Not Bombs *and the* Venice Justice Committee*, and an activist with* ARA-LA. *For more information on the web, check out:*

www.justice.wetnostril.net

Call for Congressional Hearings on COINTELPRO

By Joan P. Gibbs and Mani Gilyard, *Jericho Amnesty Movement*

In January 2007, Congressman John Conyers will become the new chair of the House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary. The House Committee on the Judiciary jurisdiction includes the following areas: (1) the judiciary and judicial proceedings, civil and criminal; (2) civil liberties; (3) claims against the United States; (4) national penitentiaries and (5) Revision and codification of the Statutes of the United States.

Herman Ferguson, on behalf of The Jericho Movement, has written a letter to Congressman Conyers requesting that he schedule hearings on "COINTELPRO: Its Legacy and Continuing Impact." It is our hope that these hearings, if held, will not only further expose the FBI and local law enforcement crimes against the Black Liberation Movement and many of those involved it, but also result in legislation addressing some of these injustices.

Of particular concern to the Jericho Movement is the release and treatment of our political prisoners. Though the United States steadfastly denies it, presently there are many political prisoners in the US, the majority of them Black/New Africans who were targets of the COINTELPRO "Black Nationalist Hate Groups" program. Many of these brothers and sisters have been incarcerated for decades.

For example, Jalil Abdul Muntaquin, has been incarcerated since 1971, Sundiata Acoli and Herman Bell since 1973. It is critical that the human rights and constitutional violations surrounding their arrests, trials, sentencing, conditions of their confinement and continuing incarceration because of their political histories--all were members of the Black Panther Party--and continuing commitment to the liberation of Black/New Afrikan be brought to the wider attention of the public. Sundiata Acoli, now 70 and with a near exemplary record, has twice been denied parole.

If nothing else, congressional hearings on "COINTELPRO: Its Legacy and Continuing Impact" would go a long way towards achieving this result.

To this end, we are calling on all supporters of political prisoners--defense committees; revolutionary nationalist, radical, and progressive organizations, elected officials, community, religious, spiritual leaders, etc.--to write, fax, or call Congressman Conyers to urge that he schedule hearings on COINTELPRO. Congressman Conyers' address is:

The Honorable John Conyers
2426 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5126, (202) 225-0072 Fax
Your support of Jericho's call will help ensure that it becomes a reality. Please mail or email copies of your letters to Herman Ferguson:

National Jericho Movement
P.O. Box 340084
Jamaica, NY 11434
Iyaluua@aol.com

For more information about The Jericho Amnesty Movement and political prisoners in the US, visit The Jericho Movement website www.the jerichomovement.com. Please also do not hesitate to contact Herman or us if you have any questions about this campaign.

In solidarity,
Joan P. Gibbs, Esq. 718-270-6296 or 718-757-4093
Mani Gilyard, Chair, Malcolm X Commemoration Committee

December 7, 2006
Dear Congressman Conyers:

Congratulations on your pending ascendancy to the chair of the House Committee on the Judiciary. We write to request that you schedule hearings on COINTELPRO: Its Legacy and Continuing Impact. For more than a decade, many of us have been requesting hearings on COINTELPRO, and hopefully, legislation that begins to address some of the injustices committed against the Black movement and activists as result of COINTELPRO. We hope that one of your acts as the new chair of the Judiciary Committee will be to schedule these hearings.

As I am sure you are aware, COINTELPRO is an acronym for a series of FBI counterintelligence programs against, among others, the Communist party, and so-called "Black Nationalist Hate Groups." The August 1967 FBI memorandum announcing the Black Nationalist Hate Group program describes its goals as:

1. Prevent a coalition of militant black nationalist groups;
2. Prevent the rise of a messiah who could unify and electrify the militant nationalist movement;
3. Prevent violence on the part of the black nationalist groups;
4. Prevent militant black nationalist groups and leaders from gaining respectability by discrediting them;
5. Prevent the long range growth of militant black nationalist organizations especially among youth.

The targets of the Black Nationalist Hate Group program included a wide array of Black organizations and individuals, among them the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Revolutionary Action Movement, the Republic of New Afrika, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Kwame Toure, formerly known as Stokely Carmichael, and countless others. Though the Black Panther (BPP) was not among the original targets of the program, in September 1968, then FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover labeled the BPP "the greatest threat to the internal security of the country." Thereafter the BPP became the primary focus of the program, and was ultimately the target of 233 of the believed total authorized "Black Nationalist" COINTELPRO actions.

As the Final Report of the 1976 Select Committee To Study Government Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities states: "Although the claimed purpose of the Bureau's COINTELPRO tactics was to prevent violence, some of the FBI's tactics against the BPP were clearly intended to foster violence, and many others could reasonably have been expected to cause violence." In its pursuit of the BPP, the FBI, often together with local law enforcement officials, knew no bounds. BPP members and supporters were not only spied on and harassed but, in blatant violation of the both the US Constitution and International law, falsely accused of crimes that they had not committed. Many were wounded and murdered by police and FBI. December 4, 2006, marked the 38th anniversary of the assassination of Fred Hampton, one of the leaders of the Chicago chapter of the BPP, by local Chicago police thanks to information from an FBI informant, while he slept in his bed. Hampton was shot twice in the head, once in the arm and shoulder; while three other people sleeping in the same bed escaped unharmed. Mark Clark, sleeping in a living room chair, was also murdered while asleep. Hampton's wife, who was eight months pregnant, was also shot but survived. Four Panthers sleeping in the apartment were also wounded, while one escaped injury. Fred Hampton was 21 years old when he was assassinated; Mark Clark was 17.

While the true impact of the COINTELPRO Black Nationalist Hate Group Program on the Black Liberation Movement will probably never be known because the FBI never recorded all of its activities, has destroyed many of its files, and many of the architects and participants are now deceased, it is crucial that the impact and continuing legacy of this program be investigated and remedies developed to repair the damage it has done. This is particularly
true with respect to the many members of the Black Panther party, the Republic of New Afrika and other organizations that today languish in jail as a result of their having been targeted by the FBI and local law enforcement officials as part of the counterintelligence programs.

We urgently request that you schedule hearings on "COINTELPRO: Its Legacy and Continuing Impact" in the near future. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention this matter. We expect that you will give our request the serious attention that it deserves.

Yours truly,

Herman Ferguson
Co-Founder, The Jericho Movement

Former Black Panthers still fighting government harassment, L to R: Hank Jones, the late John Bowman, who just passed, Ray Boudreaux, Harold Taylor, and Richard Brown. Decades after their involvement with the Black Panther Party and in some cases torture by agents of COINTELPRO, these men were subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury witch-hunt last year. They remain committed to resisting grand juries and, for the first time in years, are sharing their stories of harassment and torture at the hands of the police.
Photo by Scott Braley

Legacy of Torture:
the war against the Black Liberation Movement

<http://www.freedomarchives.org/BPP/torture.html>

ARA will show this video in LA in Feb. Call 310-495-0299 for info.

"The same people who tried to kill me in 1973 are the same people who are here today, trying to destroy me. I mean it literally. I mean there were people from the forces of the San Francisco Police Department who participated in harassment, torture and my interrogation in 1973 ... none of these people have ever been brought to trial. None of these people have ever been charged with anything. None of these people have ever been questioned about that." -- John Bowman, former member of Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, who passed in Dec. 2006.

Order this new 28-minute DVD directed, produced, and edited by Andres Alegría, Claude Marks & The Freedom Archives, ISBN 978-0-9790789-0-3
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An Appeal for Redress from the War in Iraq

Many active duty, reserve, and guard service members are concerned about the war in Iraq and support the withdrawal of U.S. troops. The Appeal for Redress provides a way in which individual service members can appeal to their Congressional Representative and US Senators to urge an end to the U.S. military occupation. The Appeal messages will be delivered to members of Congress at the time of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in 2007. The wording of the Appeal for Redress is short and simple. It is respectful in tone.

"As a patriotic American proud to serve the nation in uniform, I respectfully urge my political leaders in Congress to support the prompt withdrawal of all American military forces and bases from Iraq. Staying in Iraq will not work and is not worth the price. It is time for U.S. troops to come home."

The Appeal for Redress is sponsored by active duty service members based in the Norfolk area and by a sponsoring committee of veterans and military family members. The Sponsoring committee consists of Iraq Veterans Against the War, Veterans For Peace, and Military Families Speak Out.

Members of the military have a legal right to communicate with their member of Congress. To learn more about the rights and restrictions that apply to service members, contact us. Attorneys and counselors experienced in military law are available to help service members who need assistance in countering any attempts to suppress this communication with members of Congress. Members of the military have rights under the U.S. Constitution, laws passed by Congress, and the military's own regulations. Military regulations give you important ways to voice your opinion about what's going on in Iraq. They also impose important limitations. People in the military don't have the same constitutional right to express themselves as civilians do. But military members do have the right to possess newspapers, books and other personal informational materials.

The military regulation that covers protest and dissent by members of the military is DoD Directive 1325.6 "Guidelines for Handling Dissident and Protest Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces."

The command may prohibit members from distributing written materials on base, other than through "official outlets," without prior approval. However, the command may not prevent you from distributing printed material simply because it is critical of government policies or officials. DoD Directive 1325.6 says it is DoD policy to preserve military members' "right of expression… to the maximum extent possible, consistent with good order and discipline and the national security." Members of the military may attend demonstrations but only in the United States and only when they are off base, off duty, and out of uniform.

The Right Of Service Members To Complain And Request Redress

Article 3.5.7 DoD Directive 1325.6 provides the right of service members to complain and request redress of grievances against actions of their commanders. (IMPORTANT NOTE: A redress is not to be confused with a petition. The action taken here by individual service members is an Appeal for Redress to End the War in Iraq.)

DoD Directive 7050.6, "Military Whistleblower Protection Act," provides for the following rights:

Article 4.1 -- Members of the Armed Forces shall be free to make a protected communication to:
Article 4.1.1 — A Member of Congress
Articles 4.2-4.4 -- Military members are protected against reprisals for such communication.

Iraq Veterans Against the War demonstration in San Francisco, CA.

If the command tries to retaliate against you for exercising your free speech rights, get some legal assistance. Talk with a civilian military counselor and/or a civilian attorney familiar with military law. You may be able to file a complaint under Article 138 of the UCMJ1. You may be able to file a complaint under the Military Whistleblower Protection Act. There may be other legal channels. An attorney or counselor can help you file a complaint or communicate with your command about the problem.

See also DoD Directive 1344.10 (August 2, 2004) Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty

This Directive reissues the earlier Directive 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces," that was issued June 15, 1990, and implements previously proposed guidelines on "DoD Personnel Security" and "Guidelines for Handling Dissident and Protest Activities among Members of the Armed Forces." This Directive states that, while members of the Armed Forces are prohibited from engaging in certain political activities, "It is DoD policy to encourage members of the Armed Forces to carry out the obligations of citizenship."

You may also call the G.I. Rights Hotline at (800) 394-9544 or (510) 465-1472 (also international calls)

Appeal for Redress
PO Box 53052
Washington, DC 20009-3052
http://www.appealforredress.org/
info@appealforredress.org
360-241-1414

Call to Action for Resistance Against the War in Iraq, March 19-20

This call to action comes from a number of different organizations and individuals involved in the anti-war movement. Our organizing experiences have left us feeling disappointed in ourselves and in the movement as a whole. Organizing against the war in Iraq has led us to believe that marching and chanting has not made enough of an impact nor done enough to end the brutal realities of the occupation. This has got to change.

On March 19 and 20th 2007, we call for worldwide days of resistance to the imperialist, racist and senseless war in Iraq. We propose occupations, acts of civil disobedience, and direct action. We propose that these acts of resistance be directed towards governments, military recruitment centers, corporations, and other institutions that perpetuate American empire and war.

We call for the support of any and all actions people take against the war and for people to respect a diversity of tactics. This means standing in solidarity with all forms of resistance to the war. Although people may not always agree upon every course of action, we should not actively oppose other people's forms of resistance.

We call for people to organize and take action at the local level and to make decisions democratically. We need to be organizing from the bottom up, not putting time and resources into another top-down permitted March in Washington. Anyone involved in this day of action deserves the right to make their own decisions as they are in the best position to know what can and can't work in their own cities and states. By coordinating our efforts through communication, regional *consultas* and statewide meetings, we will maintain local autonomy while building important connections and relationships.

We call for this day of action to be used as a catalyst for community outreach and organizing around the war. We need to start talking with people in our neighborhoods, not just the same old crowd. In using this day as something to build towards, we won't just be taking action for the sake of action; we will be using that action to build a stronger resistance to the war.

It is time to confront the failures of the anti-war movement by planning ahead, taking risks, making demands, and creating consequences. March 20th, 2007 will be a day to show the world that we recognize how deep the blood of imperialism runs in Iraq and to demonstrate that our rising resistance will run deeper!

direct action! Lansing, Michigan
Youth Against War and Racism -northern California
ACTIVATE -Grand Rapids, Michigan
The United Resistance -California
Copwatch -Sonoma County, CA
Petaluma Food Not Bombs -Sonoma County
Students for a Democratic Workplace
Kansas Mutual Aid -Lawrence, Kansas
Joe Carr -www.loveinrevolution.org
Auckland University Students for Justice in Palestine
Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army (CIRCA) -Free States
Reclaim the Commons -www.rtc.revolt.org
Animas SDS, Ft. Lewis College -Durango, CO
October 15th Collective -Toledo, Ohio

To add your organization to the list of endorsers or to join the listserve for this day of action, contact d@direct-action.net for more information:
http://www.direct-action.net

Unity Mission to Free the 8

Former Black Panthers target of new COINTELPRO attack: Hank Jones, the late John Bowman, Ray Boudreaux, Harold Taylor and Richard Brown. Survivors of torture-based political prosecution were indicted on 35-year old charges. Help free them!

Stop the War Against the Black Liberation Movement!

In a political case based on the Bush strategy to legitimize torture of "enemy combatants" in the "War on Terror," the FBI and CA police recently arrested 8 elders, former Black Panthers, charging them with murder and an alleged conspiracy to kill cops 35 years ago. ***The truth is there was a real conspiracy by the cops and FBI to kill Black Panthers!*** Known as **COINTELPRO**, this clandestine 'dirty war' was carried out inside the US through assassination, torture, frame-ups, mass arrests and military-style assaults against the Panthers, like here in LA

on 41st & Central, still on the logo of LAPD's SWAT team. Now, as the Black liberation movement is pushing the Democratic majority in Congress to reopen hearings into COINTELPRO, prosecutors trot out a totally discredited case. It was already thrown out of court once because it's based on the documented torture of the Panthers carried out by the New Orleans police under the supervision of the San Francisco police and federal authorities. Several of the defendants were themselves tortured, and the only testimony against them comes from another torture victim, who told the police what they wanted to hear.

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TURNING THE TIDE

Women Hold Up Half the Sky! Free Our Sisters, Free Ourselves!

*Volume 20 Number 2 *ISSN 1082-6491* March-April 2007*

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Free the SF Eight Former Panthers

Mumia Abu Jamal

ARA-15: White Anti-Racist Hip Hop An Interview with Jus Rhyme

Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror
PO Box 1055*Culver City CA 90232*310-495-0299
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General T.A.C.O. Speaks: On the Watch-a-Pig Program, Armed Self-Defense, the Panther Eight and the Brutal Government Assassination of Tookie

by General T.A.C.O., Black Riders Liberation Party

When the LA rebellion exploded mainly because of the savage brutal beating of Rodney King by the racist LAPD, it revealed that young black people trapped in the poverty stricken ghettos had finally come to their African senses, united in a "gang" truce, and rejected taking their frustration out on each other that stemmed from white racism and capitalist oppression. In the past, the outcome of such negative self-hatred resulted in a severe non-violent posture towards the racist police and other government agents of repression. Brothers and sisters who were considered hardcore on the streets would literally start running from just the sight of the racist police. On April 29, 1992, the LAPD started running! After the rebellion, black unity was very strong, so the LAPD began to openly carry M-16 military rifles to try to further intimidate the Black community and tried to destroy every peace gathering in every "hood" in LA!! The times were changing, and the Black Riders were in tune. In 1996 we circulated in Watts, South Central, Inglewood, hawthorne, Compton and Long beach, talking to young black brothers and sisters on the need to unite and push our constitutional and human rights, especially our right to have weapons and defend ourselves. Many of them could identify with what the Black Riders were saying, because they had experienced and witnessed so much outlaw gang behavior by the police.

Many of them donated and gave us their legal guns and other self defense weapons to help us begin the first watch-a-pig program patrols to move against the racist pigs. The fascist police act as an imperialist occupying army like they're working overseas in Iraq or Afghanistan, monitoring the actions of the neo-colonial poor Black people and swooping in at will, with high-powered guns, to trap and leave as quickly as they came, yet never responding to the real safety needs of the community. Harassment, terror, torture, brutal beatings, drive-by shootings, stop and frisk, and verbal abuse are the standard operating procedures for the police. Regular and sometimes massive sweeps through the Black communities are launched by the various pig forces (including the FBI) and authorized by the racist European ruling class and corrupt high public political officials in the name of trying to fight "crime" and "gangbanging." Whole blocks have been cordoned off and anyone entering and exiting are questioned. The police consider any Black person, including our children, as a typical criminal suspect or "public enemy!" When it is the paramilitary police who have contributed to the problem of crime and violence through their gang-style responses and their involvement in smuggling drugs and guns into our community. Thus, tight hand cuffs, being shoved into a police car, being slapped with a billy club, kicked between the legs, maced, the use of attack dogs, forced to put one's hands on top of hot police cars, armored vehicles, battering ram tanks, and suffering humikliating public strip searches all have become part of life for young Black people all over racist AmeriKKa, especially in L.A.

We named our organization the Black Riders Liberation Party and we selected as its symbol the Black panther, in honor of the first Black revolutionary vanguard, the Black panther Party for Self Defense. We chose to resurrect the Black panthers in retaliation, when we learned that our parents and elders were murdered, imprisoned, drugged, brainwashed and exiled in the first Black revolution by the wicked FBI and local police through an evil government secret war program of Counter Intelligence (COINTELPRO). The Black panther is an animal that when it is pressured it moves back until it is cornered, then it comes out fighting for life or death. We felt we had been pushed back long enough and that it was time for poor Black people to come out and take over. During the recruitment periods, we clarify that the party is not racist. We actually oppose all forms of racism, especially when institutionalized to benefit the capitalists.

We wanted to ensure that poor Black people viewed our patrols as positive and helpful to the community. We didn't want people to see the Black Riders as thuggish, gun toting brothers and sisters without an organized political agenda. We came up with the idea that all Black Riders would wear an updated model of the old Black panther uniform – black berets, and black, gray and white camouflage fatigues, and big black boots! We chose this uniform to make sure that we would not look like or appear to be any black street organization or "hood" in L.A. One of the main goals was to unite all these hoods or groups into fighting for positive revolutionary goals. We want to help establish peace and unity between young Black people still caught up in the Blood and Crip war going on in our community, so we tried to pick a "neutral" color for our New Generation Black panther organization. We also knew that many racist police agencies were directly responsible for the ongoing Blood and Crip war by picking up brothers and sisters in patrol cars and dropping them off in the middle of a "hood" that the individual didn't get along with. In order for us to be an effective organized force of peacemakers, we realized that we would have to first deal with the historical peace breaker! The Watch-a-pig program was also created to deal with this issue. That is why we continue to seek to confront the real enemy of poor Black people and move the struggle to a higher level, to remove the fear that black people have of the racist police and show them that the enemy is really scared of us as a people.

We began the patrol in 1997 armed with law booklets, video cameras, para-military camouflage fatigues, black berets, bats, knives, black karate skills and any other legal weapon we could get a hold of. We began to monitor the police radio calls, observing arrests as they questioned black people, educating our people about their armed self-defense rights, and offering our services to people who needed a witness against the police in a law suit. Sometimes, we even received urgent cell phone calls from Black people and we would send out a car to the troubled location to watch the pigs. If necessary, we would even follow the racist pigs in their car around the community, bumper to bumper, just to make sure that they would not hurt anyone. We made it clear to all the comrades involved in the program that they should be prepared to do battle only if a racist police officer drew his or her gun or tried to attack us unjustly. We knew that once it started, we may wind up in jail or dead standing up for our people's rights. This activity captured the hearts and minds of the people. Many young Black people who used to fight each other in the streets united and went out to patrol the demonic police together. That's what we call real Revolutionary Black Power.

We all felt the compelling urge to finally risk our lives for something positive as opposed to something negative. We launched the first patrols of the police armed with weapons since the original Panthers started in 1966!! Without a doubt we had to overcome the life threatening reality associated with the patrols. It took an extreme love for our people to have the heart and courage to police the police. The police killed Black people in cold blood all the time in LA and get away with it calling it "justifiable homicide." We felt the pigs were a gang of cowards and busters when confronted by organized Black people with knowledge of the law and who were ready to defend themselves by any means necessary. Many of these patrols resulted in bloody combat or confrontation with the pigs and our comrades were framed and sent to jail on trumped up charges. This did not stop our patrols as more people joined our ranks once the police exposed themselves to be nothing but common criminals acting under the color of law. The second Black Revolution had begun and the genie of Black revolutionary violence had once again been let free in Babylon. It would only stop when total freedom was had.

Many old O.G. (original) Black panthers from LS to New York joined our ranks or supported our programs. They were anxious to get another shot at the oppressor and they wanted to prove that the Black Panther will always live in the hearts and minds of the people. A few of the recently imprisoned Black Panther Eight supported our program while they still prowled the streets. They were framed and arrested Jan. 23, 2007 for a 36-year-old trumped up alleged retaliatory murder of a white police officer. The pig was corrected seven days after the vicious murder of the great Black panther leader General George jackson by racist San Quentin prison guards on August 21, 1971. This new critical government attack on these aging O.G. Panther elders will never be forgotten and will be met with an extremely massive political consequence. The Panther Eight must be set free by any means necessary.

We patrol the pigs at random and link it with our other daily movements doing other dangerous political work like trying to educate and raise the African consciousness of young Black people on the street corner to stop tribalism and Black on Black violence. We were careful to keep our patrols within the bounds of the law and this pissed off the pigs even more. Pig brutality was extremely reduced in areas we patrolled. Black people in the community were deeply impressed. The police tried to turn the community against us but it had the opposite effect. The community was proud to see disciplined young Black men and women defend their rights and stand up to the wicked racist Amerikkan Empire. Our reputation as fearless freedom fighters grew everywhere. By the year 2007, ten years later, we had successfully grown more sophisticated, and by then patrolled the pigs in Watts, Compton, Long Beach, Inglewood and even Oakland!

We grew more sophisticated mainly because of the support of the poor Black people throughout LA donating everything an oppressed people can to fight back. Our people donated time, advice, rides in their own cars, and pennies, nickels, and dimes to support our programs. Some people literally jumped in line while we watched the pigs and brought their own video camera or camera phone to participate. This happened many times, especially along Crenshaw Blvd. In LA. We bought a **Black Power Van** equipped with high-tech walkie-talkies, video cameras, scanners, lap top computers, binoculars, tasers and other technical equipment needed to fight against police terrorism and educate our people about the need for security against the pigs with an advanced four-wheeled mobile security system operating 24 hours a day, for free!!

Some petty-bourgeois people fail to understand why we collect donations. They are completely stupid to the fact that in the early 20th Century, the great Black leader Marcus Garvey created black owned enterprises by collecting donations of nickels and dimes. More than a hundred thousand black people came out in 1919 in New York to see Garvey launch the Black Star Steam Ship Line. We as a people all collectively owned those gigantic ships and that was a beautiful thing in the past. Now we as a people must prepare and be ready for the future.

We have helped to create many positive food, clothing, shelter survival programs, and many small "gang" truces around Los Angeles and in many jails. We have also been to many speaking engagements, unity meetings and demonstrations for the people in the last 11 years of our existence as a new Black panther organization. Yet the brutal government assassination of Stanley "Tookie" Williams had a serious impact on our grass roots organizing efforts to bring the masses of our people back into political life. Through his book and other articles he wrote, Tookie taught us that Black on Black violence must be rpevented on the spot before it happens through conflict resolution by a respected, reasonable, revolutionary African minded mediator. It is impossible to count all the times our organization has stood between two armed hostile factions and helped to bring about peace and Black on Black love. Tookie's message of Black Unity had ultimately struck a shord in the hearts of young Black people so the government moved quickly to silence that message. I led a delegation of 20 militant Black Riders soldiers to City Hall and to Schwarzenegger's office at the Ronald Reagan building in downtown LA in the fight to save him from execution, and helped to bring national and international TV and media attention to his case. We exposed to the world that the racist death penalty was being used by corrupt politicians as a weapon of assassination. Governor fake terminator Schwarzenegger has gone on record saying that one of the main reasons why he murdered Tookie was because he dedicated his book to many different O.G. Black panther leaders, especially general George Jackson. We also launched a militant demonstration outside of Tookie's funeral when the racist LAPD tried to set up military barricades around the proceedings. We felt this was the height of disrespect, so we engaged in numerous tense clashes and confrontations with the pigs to clear a path for Black people to enter the funeral and pay their respects. Many Bloods and Crips showed up at the funeral to show their support for Tookie.

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T.A.C.O. Continued from pg. 1

The Black Riders Liberation Party was born in a period of stress when black people were moving away from the philosophy and strategy of non-violent actions being pushed by neo-colonial puppet fake black leaders who encouraged us as a people to hold in our anger and pain from white racist oppression. This causes us to take out the explosive frustration on each other through tribalism instead of unleashing it on our real enemy. We dare to believe that we could offer the community a permanent political vehicle which would serve their needs and advocate their interests. We have met many foes; we have seen many enemies, we have been slandered, kidnaoped, gagged, jailed, raided, and murdered. When the enemy strikes out at you blindly, crushing you right and left if he possibly can, then you know you are doing everything right! We now know more than ever before, that the will of the people is greater than the technology and repression of those who are against the interests of the people. Therefore we know that we can and will continue to serve and educate the people. Bullet proof love, thanks and appreciation goes out to all the brothers and sisters on the block who have supported the struggle. Hollow point bullets are sent to all the snitches, sell-outs, pig boot licking house nigga's, especially the ones that roam the streets. THE RACIST DOG POLICEMEN MUST IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAW FROM OUR COMMUNITY, OR FACE THE WRATH OF AN ARMED PEOPLE!!

He who does not fear the death of a thousand cutts will dare to unseat the emperor! Long Live the Guerrilla! Power to the People who Don't Fear Freedom!

--General T.A.C.O., Black Riders Liberation Party

Editor's note: Turning the Tide recently received this article from a prisoner, a former white supremacist. Although we disagree with a lot of what he has to say, including his use of a capital-W on "white," we are printing and commenting on his letter in the interests of further dialogue. The author asked to write anonymously for security reasons, and we have honored that.
--Editor

From a White Male's Perspective: An Opinion

By The Fly

I've seen a lot of complaining in TTT about the lack of unity among groups, organizations and races on key issues. Besides complaints of political in-fighting, there are concerns about the lack of support among Whites for anti-racist activities, an inability to educate and integrate new members or sustain veteran activists. I was involved with racism for a number of years. It wasn't til recently that I shook myself of that delusion and awoke to reality. Having spent time on the other side, I thought I'd impart my opinion, from a White perspective, in hopes of shedding light. For 13 years, I've been imprisoned at close quarters with every possible race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and human difference imaginable. I've gained thereby insight into my own existence and that of those around me. It hasn't come easy.

We're so often caught up in our own desires we forget to respect others' wants. When conflicting needs cross paths, trouble ensues if level heads don't prevail. In a nation that prides itself on individuality, it's sometimes necessary to put our views to the side and consider others' opinions in a neutral mind set.

I'm European by descent. Some of my ancestors began arriving from Ireland in the 1840s fleeing famine. One was executed for trying to free his comrades from an English prison. My family continued to immgrate legally and illegally into the 1980s. I remember sitting at dinner as a youth with family from Ireland whom I could hardly understand. I had no idea where they got their accents. I figured it was near Texas, as that's where folks with accents came from. Seemed logical.

Minority people often speak of losing their cultural ties to their native lands, often blaming it on "white man's oppression." Often that's true. But stop for a minute, and think about all the white people you know who claim ancestry to Irish, Norwegian or German immigrants. How many speak their ancestral tongues or practice their cultural observances? Having grown up in town 98% White, I can say it's almost nil. I wonder if minority people think about the struggles and discrimination my Irish ancestors faced and have been subject to, as much as they want me to think about their struggles.

Recently in the local paper, I came across an article buried in the Metro section about four African American teen girls who beat and robbed a 16 year old White girl because of her race. The paper claimed such Black-on-White bias crimes were rare. I know that's untrue. I wrote one of my daughters and asked what she thought of the attack. Her response: "Dad, the black kids at school hate white people. They're real racist!" That's coming from a 14-year-old. Before you conclude she's just a biased White woman, you should know she's Jewish and native American on her mother's side, and a member of the Warm Springs tribe. She can't afford to be racist.

There was no outcry from the White community over the racist attack. Nobody suggested the girls be re-educated. It went away with no comment from the world. What would the result have been if four White girls attacked a Black girl? Most Whites today, including myself, regard such incidents as a sign of Blacks failing to address their communities' own bias and prejudices, or condoning them as a "reaction to white oppression." My daughter, who's the epitome of the 'American race,' ain't buying that foolhardiness. "Racist is racist no matter who you are," she said. Wise words for a young girl.

In response to her comments, I wrote this: "You know your ol' dad hasn't been perfect. I walked that path of hate so long I was blind to reality. I know the symptoms all to well. Sweetheart, those black girls committed a vile racist act. It's a shame not only for them, but for the Black community who should not be associated with such vile actions. Whatever you do in life, don't equate the dishonorable acts of those girls or the racism you hear at school with all Black folks… You know well the struggles the Native Americans, Jews and irish have been through. No people have a monopoly on hurt. Take a moment to think about the struggles Blacks have had to face as well. You have the right to hate whom you wish, especially regimes that oppress. But never let hate consume you so you act violently on it. That shows weakness. Separateness and fear have caused White people to oppress and harm other races in the past. That same separateness and fear in other races causes them to react with bitterness and hatred. Those girls and the racist kids at school have fallen prey to hatred, anger and bitterness.

"You have many people in your blood," I wrote her. "You are the future of the world, the Eve of a new race, a race which will be created from the mixing of all the peoples of the world. Sometimes they may feel conflicting, but your heart and actions are the most powerful medicine for healing the wounds that inflict our world. It's about seeing how things are and not condoning racism no matter what. Hold Black racists as accountable as you would a White racist. Do right, and harm no one."

If you want White support for your cause and struggles, you have to earn it the same way you would your own people. What you want for your own people, you should want for all people. The anti-racist movement will gain its greatest support from the White community and youth when they start addressing the issues of their own inner-racism.

I'm new to the anti-racist movement. Maybe my opinions aren't acceptable to some or kosher to others. But it's what I'm coming to the table with. My views are not likely to change. I hope TTT will share some of my writing in the future. Until then… Peace.

Editor's response to the Fly:

You raise many important issues and considerations we would like to address. First of all, it is very heartening to see someone like yourself, who was deeply imbued with racism and who lives within a highly racist institution such as prison, grappling with these issues and attempting to free yourself and others. It is a service to the struggle and to the future not only of your daughter, but all humanity. You are one of many former racists and boneheads, many of them imprisoned, who have been writing to us recently about their "waking up" and becoming anti-racists, and this is tremendously encouraging. It speaks to the fact that a self-critical grappling with reality is a tremendously powerful for positive change. That is what we were trying to do, from a somewhat different position, with the self-critical examination of two decades of anti-racist practice in the last issue. Many people, perhaps you included, misunderstood it, and I guess that is on us for not being sufficiently clear. Those were not complaints, as you characterize them, or despair, as others took them. They grew out of the belief that the anti-racist movement must first and foremost be a self-critical movement. If we cannot identify and correct our own weaknesses, we can never win. And as the ARA points of unity declare: "The object is to win."

Probably because you have seen only a couple of issues of "Turning the Tide," you seem to be operating under the misconception that TTT is a Black publication, or comes from communities of color. This is not the case. Although there are people of color in Anti-Racist Action internationally, much of its base has always been among European-descent youth concerned with uprooting racism within their own scenes and communities, and confronting institutionalized racism and organized white supremacy and fashion. We print the self-determined expressions of Black/African, Mexicano/indigenous, Asian and other comrades struggling against colonialism and imperialism because we believe they are essential to the reconstruction of a liberated and environmentally sustainable society for all humanity.

Like you, I am of European descent. In fact, my father came to the U.S. from Poland as a teenager in the 1930s, so my "European-ness" is a much more immediate reality. In your letter, you capitalize "White" as if it is a nationality, and in a separate letter, you asked why TTT capitalizes Black and Asian, but not "white." The reason is simple. Although we prefer the terms African or New Afrikan (which are non-racial, national designations) and European (which we do capitalize), Black and white are more commonly used (obviously inaccurate) racial/national designations. The differences between the historical processes through which a "white nation" and a Black people were forged in the US are like night and day. Although the stripping of ancestral language, for example, might appear common, it didn't occur in the same way. White language minorities were slowly amalgamated into a substantially English-speaking "white" majority through a mixture of bribes, coercion, cultivated historical amnesia and inducements, a primarily ideological and economic process of integration. The languages, religious practices, beliefs and family ties of Black people brought to the Americas as chattel slaves were exterminated and eradicated to the extent possible through brutal methods, a primarily military process of separation and subordination. In Puerto Rico, a US colony since 1898, the US tried to eliminate Spanish and make English the official language. Nothing comparable took place with the Germans, Italians, Irish, Swedes, Poles, Greeks, Russians etc. who were amalgamated into "white" America.

Another key difference is the relationship to Native land. Black people for the most part integrated or escaped to and were given refuge by indigenous peoples. There were exceptions, of course; some Black people were held as slaves by the Cherokee. Later, some Black freed slaves were used as shock troops in the US war on the Native Nations of the center of the US. But the Lumbee, the Seminoles and others, as well as the mixed lineage of many people of African descent in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean reflects a certain shared historical relationship. "White" Americans, on the other hand, created their sense of nationhood and entitlement as settlers, taking the land of the indigenous away and exiling or exterminating the people on that land. The Irish, for example, who first migrated to the US, swiftly set about breaking the compact between the original English colonists and the native people of Pennsylvania, in order to seize the native land and farm it as private property. This is a fundamental, and consequential, distinction. It is not, however, a matter of "blood" or "inbred racial characteristics." It is a matter of social, political and economic practice and reality, of a system created and sustained intergenerationally until an illegitimate "white" national identity based on exploitation and oppression is created. In another letter, you said it's a sign of trouble when people stop identifying with their country, and start identifying with a sub-group. To the country, it's a sign of sanity when "white" people break out of the privilege-induced identification with "America" and white settler nationalism, and start identifying with humanity.

I want to briefly address the question of Black "racism," because it seems central to your worldview. I've never agreed with the formulation that Black people can't be racist. In a society based on racism, settler colonialism, chattel slavery, and genocide, racism is inculcated in everyone. Professing that "racism = prejudice + power," and concluding that oppressed people cannot be racist (because, presumably, they have no power) is a formula for powerlessness, victimization and despair. If oppressed people had no power, they would have no hope. But of course, the wealth and power of the oppressors and exploiters in fact is derived from the people they oppress and exploit. Oppressed and colonized people DO have power, including the power to change the world. They are also capable of misusing and abusing their power. Anti-racism and anti-imperialism must be self-critical undertakings not only for 'white' people, but for all people.

That said, there are still distinctions to be made. You say, "Separateness and fear have caused White people to oppress and harm other races in the past. That same separateness and fear in other races causes them to react with bitterness and hatred." However, you let Europeans off far too lightly in that assessment. The primary motivating factors in explaining European aggression have been greed and colonialism (the theft of land, labor and resources). Racism and fear emerged as ideological and psychological justifications after the fact. The first form of racism Black people internalize is anti-Black racism and self-hatred. Black self-love and some degree of Black separation from "whiteness" are not manifestations of "racism" but a necessary antidote to how racism has been internalized. Europeans also need to disidentify with "whiteness," and appreciate and respect Black cultural, intellectual, artistic and scientific developments, in order to redress the balance of centuries of "white" expropriation and over-valuation.

Although you claim that Black-on-white crime is minimized, that's hardly the case. The very fact that you could send me the clippings you did attests to the fact that media pay much more attention to white crime victims (whoever the perpetrators) than when crime victims are Black, Mexicano/indigenous, or Asian. There was another case recently where several white girls were beaten by a number of Black youth in Long Beach, and I can assure you, the outcry from 'white' communities was quite intense. The defense of the Black children and their families, including the fact that the main actual perpetrators were never caught or tried, was dismissed as 'playing the race card' or 'callousness to the white victims.'

It's sadly true that nationalism still interferes with a universal morality and identification with humanity. For example, most responses to police brutality are carried out primarily by direct family members and friends of the victims, and secondarily by other members of their 'racial' group. This is part of what allows such crimes by oppressive authorities to continue. The day Black, white, Asian and Mexicano/indigenous people rise up as one to demand an end to police abuse of power, or mass incarceration, or the despoliation of the environment by greedy corporations and the imperial state is the day those ills will cease.

You say to your daughter, "You are the future of the world, the Eve of a new race, which will be created from the mixing of all the peoples of the world." Actually, this new race already exists. It is the only race, the human race, which has been intermixing for millennia and certainly at a rapidly increasing pace for the past half-

Free Trade and Globalized Femicide

by Swaneagle Harijan

The global profit system jams its agenda punitively down the throats of all living beings. As one who has been witnessing termination of ancient land-based cultures as well as those reclaiming human connection to earth, simplicity and survival, i see a replication of techniques in full-blown colonization around the planet. I see this in the way women and girls are brutalized in senseless ways all over the world, in how such mistreatment escalates during genocidal campaigns and in their aftermath.

Femicide assures the disruption of trust, of sane and loving community. The scars deepen with the birthing of babies shaped by rape and mothers who have few ways to heal. Often, they must survive outside their communities in shame. In Pakistan, raped women are jailed for adultery.

In the US, we live in a climate of fear where the dollar is wagged as the ultimate carrot. Uncertainty, rapidly spreading poverty, hunger, joblessness, addiction, illness, and violence suck down the most vulnerable. Those better off reside in negligent amerikkkan apathy. Corporations have successfully wrangled away the dreams of millions aspiring to basic dignified survival. Increasingly, most of us will die early from lack of preventative health care, sufficient nutrition, or safe and thriving communities. All of these divisions contribute to the groundwork that insures the growth of femicide.

I think of indigenous leader Pauline Whitesinger refusing forced relocation and opposing coal extraction and my young back-to-the-land neighbors conscious of living lightly while opposing poisonous corporate road side spraying. The profiteer wants us out of the way. I think of a raped, pregnant mother in Dafur struggling for firewood or a raped, mutilated, tortured to death teenage girl, Silvia Elena Morales, in Juarez; the blueprint of total takeover is the same. We do the oppressor's dirty work destroying ourselves and each other while the death squads operate elsewhere. Globalization's framing of fascist theft as "Free Trade" leaves no rock, leaf, creature or human unturned. Thus, the age of Free Trade ecocide, femicide, and genocide has been ushered in.

In the wee hours of the morning, i heard a report on BBC about globalization in India. Importing amerikkkan consumer values and jobs has given thousands of Indians a chance at cell phones and techno fashion in all its forms. India strives to be a global military/economic superpower.

But tens of millions of Indians benefit not at all from "Free Trade." 130,000 farmers have committed suicide as the essential craft of growing food is being eliminated by massive multinational monoculture. Millions have been relocated due to the flooding of their land by dams. Millions more face relocation so steel mills can be built. Outsourcing is multifaceted, far-reaching.

For every 800 boys born in India, there are only 600 girls, due to gender selective abortion. Boys, part of the global illusion of success, are valued more than girls, men over women. As materialism takes root, women and girls experience more bride-burning, enforced prostitution and rape.

So we see the globalization of femicide riding on the heels of ecological devastation as industry replaces customary agrarian cultures, with refugees fleeing to slums by the millions. There they often are employed as gun runners, thugs, drug dealers, human traffickers or enslaved in the sex trade. The population of the planet has shifted for the first time in human history from over half agrarian to a majority dwelling in cities.

Meanwhile, the collective bubble where so many in the US reside has recently been dented by brutal hostage-taking of female students at school. Sick dude number one (i decided not to repeat their names, as they do not deserve to be remembered) struck on September 27, 2006. i will call such men what they are: Suicide Child Rapists. At a high school in Bailey, CO, six petite blond girls were taken hostage in a classroom, and males told to leave. All were sexually assaulted, two possibly raped, one was killed as she tried to run away when SWAT approached the scene. The assailant then turned the gun on himself. A hostage survivor told how the suicide child-raper told all the girls to face the chalkboard while he could be heard unbuttoning and unzipping their clothing.
Shortly afterward on Oct 2, 2006, sick dude number two struck, taking ten 7- to 13-year-old girls hostage in an Amish school near where he lived. He told teachers, adults and boys to leave the room. He wounded five girls and killed five others before turning the gun on himself. Suicide raper? KY Jelly was found, but he apparently did not molest any of the girls whom he imprisoned in the school. In suicide notes to family members, he wrote of molesting female relatives when they were 3 and 5 years old, and that he dreamed of molesting again. The relatives say he never molested them.

As i read the articles describing what happened, i felt sick to my stomach. Despair penetrated my feelings, emotions and remnants of hope. This is a mini Juarez right here in peaceful Colorado and Pennsylvania communities. I wondered about the extent of trauma suffered by the surviving girls. I could only imagine the hell that criminally ill wannabe rapist put those children through....

How do such heinous acts relate to Free Trade? I lay it at the feet of the elite manipulaters of human fate, the perverted images eye-raping all who are forced to see them -- the pro rape entertainment industry, the pro rape military industrial complex, the athlete bully rapist who operates with impunity if rich enough, the School of the Americas cultivated paramilitary death squad rapists and pillagers, the entire fabric that utilizes such disgrace for its own immediate ends, whether pleasure or profit or both.

Suicide child rape may be unique to amerikkka: White men willing to die acting out abuse fantasies on very young, vulnerable girls who meet media standards of beauty, infantile sexuality, and accessibility requirements in real time. Worth dying for, to one of many jerked around by institutionalized brutality. How strange that it can happen twice in one week and become known. So many other horrors to girls and women of color never cease, yet are barely noticed.

It was nearly 7 years after the killings of girls and women in Juarez began before i first heard about it. Cecilia Rodriguez, the US spokesperson for the Zapatistas, told an audience in Olympia, WA in 1999 that 100 young women had been horrifically raped and murdered. Not long after, Cecilia was gang raped by four Mexican soldiers and retired from her prominent position. I miss her strong, inspiring voice.

I do wonder if the femicide occurring in Juarez, Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia, Dafur, and many other places, isn't carefully crafted by colonizing globalization. I believe destroying the healthy place of women and girls in societies assures the plowing forward of "progress" that wipes out entire ecosystems and peoples. All men must take a stand against misogyny for their own well being and that of their families.

Yet, as an anarcha-feminist woman, frontline mother, activist, gardener, graphic and performance artist, i know how rare men are who consider stopping rape as a priority. I count as precious friends such men. Far too many silence and marginalize those of us who dare speak up. Sadly, it is hardest of all when the perpetrators are known activists themselves.

One of my most harrowing stands among my own people occurred when a self-described anarchist told me "in a perfect world, adults could have sex with children." Needless to say, i went off about it and later had to deal with a male activist roommate calling me a Stalinist cause i did not want the "perfect world" dude living in our collective household. He also said i might as well call both him and his friend child molesters. One never moved in and the other moved out.

Another time, i spoke out against the presence in a peace vigil of a man who had molested a child i know. An activist friend, who was a woman, doubted the truth of the child's experience, even though several other young women we knew had been preyed on by this man. An activist man also doubted the child's nightmare. It was only years later that these people reconsidered their positions.

My first experience in addressing rape brought me death threats. My own -3- experiences with rape have been either never talked about or when i did, i was blamed for it by men in a rural community where it happened. Unfortunately, many women take the patriarchal position that has been inculcated among most people on earth and point the finger at the victim.

The attitudes instilled to keep people oppressed wherever we live in these times assist in shaping the atmosphere essential to cultivating theft, rape and murder as tools of genocide. As i study the circumstances shaping the fates of so many, especially girls and women, i see the repetition of behaviors that grease the way for the loss of healthy, vibrant culture and community. Such loss fuels pirating profiteers who stop at nothing to obtain everything they want. How easy when resistance is fragmented...

So we must seek ardently the activators of inspiring solutions, nourishing to our spirits. Such are the women of the Zapatistas who will be out in full force in Oaxaca, Mexico City, Chiapas during International Women's Day, March 8th, in their unending stand for the dignity of women. The Ten Revolutionary Zapatista Women's Laws were integral to the uprising that emerged the day the North American Free Trade Agreement, called the "death knell to the Indigenous," went into effect. On January 1, l994, the magical and poetic words of these colorful resistant peoples carried across our fragile globe. They reached my heart as i wintered in these mountains giving a surge of relief to this battered heart. To this day i honor this vision of egalitarian inclusion.

In July l997, i went on a human rights delegation to Chiapas after the massacre of 45 Maya in Acteal, mostly women and children the previous December 22. One of the victims was a pregnant woman whose belly was opened with a machete and the baby hacked to pieces. The killers included graduates of the School of the Americas as well as Kaibeles, notorious students of CIA Special Forces who are known for such treatment of pregnant Mayan women in Guatemala. It seared my soul.

We met with many of the resisting communities. Over and over again, we heard the stories of women raped by their husbands, by paramilitaries and the Mexican Army. Workshops were being organized by the civilian support organizations to assist men in reclaiming authentic manhood. The scope of the rape problem was staggering. The nonviolent community of Las Abejas had taken a stand against all alcohol due to the violence it instigated among their own men. The corn alcohol had lost its ceremonial place and had become as tainted as the much stronger rum. These women were part of the same community targeted in the Acteal massacre.

Whenever we entered resistance communities, we had to go through Mexican Army road blocks where they took down all our passport information, took photos and videos before allowing us to go on. We could see young Guatemalan Mayan prostitutes in the compounds of the army. Many of the women of Chiapas have been forced into prostitution as their crops, homes and lives were destroyed. The raw relationship of rape, war and genocide screamed out in the quiet stories told to us by these lovely, tiny, strong women.

Yet, theirs is one of the most vital and powerful resistance movements on earth. The Zapatista's Other Campaign has sent representatives all over Mexico to document the unheard voices of the most silenced and invisible ones. It is to take place for ten years and bring the voices back to be considered in the ongoing shaping of humane, participatory solution.

Over the past year, hundreds of thousands of Mexican people have been protesting and forming powerful encampments in Oaxaca to stand for the teachers' strike and in Mexico City for Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's questionable loss of the presidential election to "Free Trade" aligned Felipe Calderon. One million turned out to support Lopez Obrador in the Zocalo of Mexico City July 16th.

The most downtrodden in Mexico are standing up in stark opposition to the elite, demanding decent pay for teachers, decent education for children, a living wage for workers, and the right to determine their future without the threat of globalized destruction of land, life, culture and dignity. And the voices of women are very much a part of this movement.

Let's build an anti-racist culture of resistance!

AR-15: Anti-racist white hip-hop

TTT Interview with Jus Rhyme of AR-15

How did AR-15 start? What is the musical and activist history of members and your circle of supporters?

The seeds of AR-15 were planted in 1998 when Raw Potential and I met in AmeriCorps in San Diego, CA. We were right out of high school and we were doing community service projects around the West Coast and Southwest U.S. as a way to earn money for college. A Filipino cat from Oakland, who was on our AmeriCorps team, taught us to freestyle rap to pass the time while we worked on a variety of community projects. So we began rapping together while we were literally serving the community. Raw and I went our own ways for about 4 years after that and we reconnected in Oakland in 2003 and formed the rap group that became AR-15.

During the 4 years apart, Raw honed his rap skills in the battle circuit in the Bay Area, CA and took some classes in college with an interest in Black Studies. I went to college at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities for Ethnic Studies and cut my teeth in hip-hop organizing, connecting rappers and activists in causes ranging from immigrants' rights, police brutality, welfare rights, and anti-war activism.

When we reconnected in Oakland in 2003 the convergence of rap and politics happened for us. I had been trained by the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond in anti-racist politics and Raw and I both went through the Challenging White Supremacy workshop in San Francisco supporting various racial justice initiatives in the Bay Area. These experiences focused our activism as rappers on anti-racism and support for racial justice work led by people of color, and generally social justice work led by people that experience social injustice.

In terms of the people that support our music nationally, their activist involvement varies. We meet people where they are at in terms of social change and social justice and welcome all new fans and friends that want to get down with a movement for justice.

How do you try to or succeed in engaging your fans and listeners, who may be attracted primarily by the energy or artistry of your work, into a dialogue about the content and ideas you express?

We try to make music that allows people to enter and enjoy it on a number of levels. Metaphors and similes are our best friends, and we use language to make multi-layered songs. One person might listen to our music and hear dope, gangsta music. Other people might hear a militant or even revolutionary message. It all depends. Our job is to create a musical space where that can happen. We don't force dialogue, we create the artistic and physical spaces where dialogue can happen. At the end of the day, it's really up to the people how far we take this, as artists and as a movement.

When we are on tour we partner with local, racial justice organizations led by people of color to speak at our shows and sit on a panel with us after the show for an audience Q&A. It's brief and not heavy-handed, and creates a space for dialogue. It also plugs audience members into supporting local racial justice work led by folks of color. We also donate 25% of every paid show to local and national racial justice work. Our panels and donations show two examples of what solidarity between white people and people of color against racism and for justice could look like.

I have done many benefits for Anti-Racist Action, even with explicitly political bands like Aztlan Underground, where most of the audience streams out during the breaks between groups, rather than listen to political speakers or even watching a video or slide presentation, or where speakers get heckled by the crowd. Have you had experiences like that? How do you deal with them?

If people come to one of our hip-hop shows, they're coming for music. So we're sensitive to that. We give them a good show. We do have speakers during our set sometimes, but they talk for 2, maybe 3 minutes max during. We've seen speakers heckled at our shows, and so we and the speakers keep it movin'. As we say, we've got bigger fish to fry. The panel at the end of our shows is where people that want a clear social justice message will get it. And not everyone that comes to our shows stays for the panel. We don't feel like it's our job to make people listen. We do what we do and if we're doing our job right people will want to get down and build with us after the show, or follow up on our suggestions for getting involved in local work. We're real about the fact we are only one piece of a huge puzzle of social change work, and we can't do everything. That's what coalition work is for. It's like a sports team— everyone plays their own position, but we're still on the same team coordinating plays and strategizing together to win the game.

What mechanisms have you come up with for an on-going dialogue with listeners and fans, or for moving them from buying music or going to a show, which are more or less passive or receptive activities, into activism of their own, or even organizing?

Our obvious hope is that every person that buys a CD or comes to a show leaves ready to get down and do something. But that's just not how it goes. We reach the people that are ready for the message. But the cool thing is when we come back to a city a second time, or a fan checks out our press or web-site, they may think twice about getting active. We do much to shine the light on books, organizations, films, resources, and fans and away from AR-15. We tell people that they have what it takes to change their own communities for the better. And we also make ourselves available for support and guidance on that path.

In terms of our company, AR-15 Entertainment LLC, we run a street team that gives people a way to support our work and to make money for themselves at the same time. People interested should hit us up on our website: http://www.AR15hiphop.com. We use capitalism against itself in this way. Sure, some people wanna street team for us just to make cash, but if that's where they're at, cool. In the meantime, they're helping us spread anti-racist politics and getting money doing so. It's a for-profit strategy for social change. The right wing's doing it, why can't we? Like Talib Kweli said, we're "revolutionary entrepreneurs." And yo, who doesn't want to get paid making the world better? We'll have senator and congressman's kids running CD's to the Oval Office soon. Haha!

But, for real, we hire street teamers to sling CD's and sell tickets to shows in their hometown and they keep a percentage of their sales. They're learning business skills, but also organizing skills. The street team becomes a vehicle for mobilizing study groups, political activism, and conscious community on a local level. It is a tool that creates community around politics and it's effective because it satisfies people's basic needs— cash in pocket, food on the table, being able to pay rent.

You have probably heard criticisms of "cultural expropriation" when white people take up hip hop or rap, and have certainly been aware of how the music industry "bleached" other Black, Mexicano or Puerto Rican musical and cultural expressions to make them palatable to a white audience. On the other hand, many hip hop performers and recording artists today are finding the bulk of their audiences and of consumers buying their recordings are white. How do you see these issues, or deal with them? Do you address them directly in your music or your shows?

I remember I was in a class on rap poetry taught by Alexs Pate (author of *Amistad*, the Steven Spielberg flick) and there was a debate about white kids in hip-hop acting black. Alexs asked, "What would you rather they do—act white?" America's racist. We know that. White supremacy exists. Check. Now whether or not AR-15 is in the rap game or on TV (Ego Trip's "*The (White) Rapper Show*"), or in film ("*Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible*", World Trust, 2006), or in books ("*Other People's Property: A Shadow History of Hip-Hop in White America*," Bloomsbury Press, 2007), white people are going to be appropriating culture and getting privilege. We don't always know we're doing it, it's the way the system is designed.

So what do we do about it as white artists or white people? Do we say, "Screw it, everything's so racist! I'm done with America!?" Meanwhile we are still receiving white privilege and still appropriating, whether we mean to or not. Or do we deal with the contradictions, the messiness, the craziness and take a stand and get out there? AR-15 chooses to take a stand. Are we perfect? No. Are we part of the gentrification of rap? Yes. But we figure at the end of the day, we'd rather have white folks speaking truth to power and building solidarity with people of color while appropriating, then white folks ignoring racism, ignoring privilege and always cashing in at the expense of other people.

In terms of the whitewashing of rap, we prioritize working with other politically conscious artists of color, women, and queer artists as a way to use our privilege to balance out the music industry when and where we can. Ultimately, its about building coalitions that make demands on the music industry. Hip-hop is an amazing art form, however, because its marketability actually relies on its blackness. Hip-hop pioneers talk about this as a lesson learned from blues, jazz, and rock-and-roll. As a way to help ensure the blackness of hip-hop, many early artists in rap formed their own record labels and became the middleman between artists and major labels. This system still operates today, and is a way for the big labels to have street credibility, as well as a way for the black community to maintain some control over hip-hop's face to the world.

For many white consumers, even, the music is not "real" if it's not black. We know this, and we also know that as white anti-racist artists we will most likely not be looking at a record deal with a major label anytime soon. But we work with the fact that there are a lot of white fans of hip-hop out there, and we reach them through the fact that we look like them AND we have street cred with communities of color because of our politics and track record in the community. We're showing white kids that there's another way to be down in hip-hop, and that street cred in hip-hop can come from racial justice work as well as from skills on the mic.

How do you assess the state of popular consciousness among white young people about white supremacy or white privilege?

It's not cool to be openly racist in most white communities today, but the understanding of white supremacy and white privilege as institutions and systems is lost to most whites, in our opinion. The fact that in hip-hop you're lame if you're racist

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PART's PERSPECTIVE:

All of Us or None
Women's Liberation Key to Uprooting Racism and Overthrowing Imperialism

by Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)

Around the world today, women are the principal creators of wealth, responsible according to some estimates of nearly 70% of all productive labor, paid as well as unpaid. But even more importantly, women are leading in struggles for physical security, cultural survival, environmental sustainability, and against war, colonialism and exploitation. At the same time, women are the targets of individual and collective violence, as well as of reactionary attacks on women's autonomy, their control of their own bodies and reproductive capacities. At least in the US, women are the fastest growing group in terms of incarceration. Simultaneously, fascist forces of various stripes, both racial and religious, put themselves forward as defenders of womanhood or motherhood, and appeal to women themselves to join the fascist ranks.

Despite massive economic and social changes that tend towards freeing women from subordination, women's oppression has in some ways deepened over the last decade because efforts to deal with women's liberation and related issues of sexism, sex role oppression and homophobia have often fallen short of the mark. Girls growing up "post-feminism" have greater pressure to conform to highly sexualized stereotypes than at any time since the 1950s. Bourgeois feminists and liberals see the question of women's rights and equality as one of reform, of access to "opportunity" and the pre-existing corridors and levers of power. Many doctrinaire Marxists and anarchists believe the liberation of women is a subsidiary issue, contingent on first doing away with private property relations in the sphere of production and distribution, or on abolishing the state. Many self-proclaimed radical feminists have failed to recognize, let alone overcome, contradictions among women based on nationality, class and other forms of privilege or accommodation to imperialism. In these regards, feminism in all its variants, and the broader "women's movement," suffer from the same drawbacks and errors that have plagued other efforts at human progress and liberation.

But it's especially crucial for us to get it right this time, to go all the way, not to settle for half-measures and partial understandings in the sphere of women's liberation. The price of failure is too high, and the centrality of the issues to a successful philosophy, strategy and practice of revolutionary social transformation is too great. A theory of social reality and history that does not adequately take into account women's oppression and liberation is doomed to stumble around in the dark, incapable of either grasping the real world or changing it. The example of past successes and current fertile experiments in resistance also make clear that the liberation of women and the leadership of women are integral to any possibility of revolutionary social, political and economic transformation. We need a movement that addresses, in a hopeful yet self-critical way, the real, material contradictions that exist between men and women, as well as among women, based on their positions within the hierarchies of imperialism, colonialism, capitalism and the system of white supremacy and privilege. Only in that way can we build on past successes and overcome past failures.

What are some hard won lessons of past social struggles, or of recent scientific research and analysis? Some can be summed up in slogans that have moved millions: Women hold up half the sky. The personal is political. Not the church, not the state - women will decide our fate. Where the broom does not reach, the dust will not vanish of itself. Wages for housework. End violence against women. Men against rape. Our Bodies, Ourselves. Midwifery, menstrual extraction, and grassroots women's health promoters and practitioners.

Others are more complicated and nuanced and require a close examination of biology, history and sociology. Some speak to the very nature of humanity and our place within the biosphere. It is generally the case for most gendered organisms that the female IS the species. Chromosomally, men are part-women, sustained by evolution because two-gender reproduction favors the mutation and adaptation necessary for species survival. In terms of the development of primates and humans, the liberation of the female from estrus created the realities of sexual activity for its own pleasurable sake, and laid the basis for free will and free choice that are at the heart of human consciousness. At the same time, it created the basis for sexual violence and male domination, impossible when the female and her cycle control sexual activity and mate selection. Human liberation from the constraints and restraints of instinctual behavior is the ground on which human liberation through conscious, organized social behavior and a moral code must develop. The centrality of sexuality and reproduction to human behavior escapes many Marxists and anarchists, who are trapped in the conception that it's productive labor which played the key role in the evolution from ape to "man," as Engels termed it. But in fact, human life is and always will be organized in large part around a sexual economy, around the length of human gestation, the fragility of human offspring, and the necessity of a lengthy period of physical, mental and social inculcation and development of human young.

Misconceptions about the relative roles of hunting and gathering, and their degree of sexual assignment in the creation of a sexual division of labor and thus the beginnings of a class hierarchy are being cleared up by recent discoveries. For example, chimpanzees have been observed using tools, sharpened sticks, to kill and capture food, and it's primarily the females who have been so observed. Notions that so called "primitive" peoples are unaware of the connection between sexual intercourse and reproduction, or the role of both genders in producing offspring, have generally been proven false. The great variety of social arrangements on the planet regarding the nature of the genders and their respective roles make clear the great flexibility and fluidity of human behavior, and leave open the question of how we are to organize ourselves in the future. What is the interplay between the individual and the social, between need and desire? Humans are capable of finding ways to live together that will create a sustainable future and allow for the fullest individual freedom and collective responsibility.

What we do know is that patterns of male domination, deeply embedded in the imperial models of so-called Western civilization, are in part responsible for the massively destructive social and environmental consequences of the current world order. We know that women, in numerous societies, are the slaves of slaves, with calamitous results for humanity and the planet itself. Women do the overwhelming majority of the world's work, and are responsible for an ever-increasing share of the world's production. But because such production is for profit, its "externalities" are destroying the air, the water, the soil and the web of life that sustains itself and the very atmosphere. There is no hope of reversing global warming without the fundamental transformation of this unequal division of labor and system of exploitation. Any accurate grasp of the real world proletariat in the 21st Century must begin with the recognition that it is predominantly female.

Questions of womanhood and sisterhood are also at the center of issues of colonialism and decolonization. Women continue to lead in the struggle against cultural and physical genocide and for self-determination. Women have led in resistance against the imperial war machine and the encroachment of militarism into every sphere of daily life, in the schools, at the border and in policing. Anti-racists and anti-fascists must recognize and enhance such leadership. At the same time, anti-racists must be involved in developing grassroots community self-defense efforts that provide an alternative to the fear-mongering efforts of fascists to portray themselves as the solution to sexual assault, violence against women, or alleged social decay and family disintegration. Men and women alike have a potential and a responsibility to fight rape, to fight for reproductive rights for all, and to create new forms of non-hierarchical social organization and political action to achieve liberation.

HARRIET TUBMAN:
A WOMAN CALLED 'GENERAL MOSES'

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She has been gone for almost a century, and still her name is on millions of lips; her memory sacred among those who love freedom. Her parents named her Araminta, the daughter of Black slaves in the Tidewater area of Maryland, perhaps in 1820 (or 1821 -- no one is sure). As a baby, the slaves shortened her fancy name into the nickname, "Minty." History remembers her by her married name: Harriet Tubman, freedom fighter.

She began on the road to freedom as a child, for she wasn't even 10 years old when she ran away from cruel slaveowners, people who used naked violence against babies and children to force them to do their will.

Harriet was a tender 5 years old, when she was forced to take care of a white baby, to keep house, to work day and night for others. She was all of 7 years old when she got caught eating some sugar, food that only white people were allowed to eat. Threatened with a beating, the girl fled, and running so fast that her little legs gave out, she fell into a hog slopping sow. Hunger forced her to return to the house of her 'mistress', where she was promptly and viciously flogged by the 'master.' This child no doubt learned an important lesson by the violence, but doubtless it wasn't what the slaveowning class wanted her to learn. They wanted to instill the seed of terror into the child, so that she never thought of running away again. Instead, it appears she learned that if she ran, there would be no return.

She married a 'free' man, John Tubman, who was free in name, and in law, but hardly in mind. When she talked about freedom, he shouted at her to stop it. "You take off and I'll tell the Master. I'll tell the Master right quick," he threatened. As she looked at her husband, a feeling of disbelief washed over her, "You don't mean that." But, in her guts, she knew. He *did* mean it.

Yet, she meant to be free. No doubt she learned another important lesson. Everybody can't be trusted. She must be watchful, attentive, and observant. When the time came, she left, walking through thick forests, over rivers, and over hills. She avoided open roads. She followed the North Star, and when she got to Pennsylvania (a so-called 'free' state), she noted:

"I had crossed the line. I was 'free': but there was no one to welcome me to the land of freedom. I was a stranger in a strange land; and my home, after all, was down in Maryland; because my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and friends were there. But I was free and they should be free! I would make a home in the North and bring them there!"

She said it. She meant it. She did it. She returned repeatedly to the Tidewater, and carried folks off, with cleverness, courage, and determination. She returned to the plantation 2 years after her escape for John Tubman, but the 'free Negro' had remarried, and thinking himself free, didn't want to leave Maryland! Still, this wouldn't deter her from her sacred mission: freedom.

She carried a pistol, and once, while leading some 25 captives North, came within a hair's breadth of using it. One of the men, bone-tired, hungry, and scared, decided that nothing was worth this scampering through the swamps. He refused to be persuaded to move on, until she moved close to him, and aiming the weapon at his head, said, "Move or die." He moved. In several days they were in Canada. Harriet knew that a returned slave would be tortured until he told all he knew, thus endangering all who wanted to be free. To her, it was freedom or death. That simple.

She would later say, of her upbringing, and of slavery itself: "I grew up like a neglected weed -- ignorant of liberty, having no experience of it. I was not happy or contented: every time i saw a white man I was afraid of being carried away. I had two sisters carried away in a chain gang -- one of them left two children. We were always uneasy .... I think *slavery is the next thing to hell.*"

Her raids into the prison-states of the South led to the freedom of literally hundreds of Black people -- including her own aged parents, Harriet and Benjamin Ross. It is thought her family originally came from the Ashanti people, a tribe which hails mostly from the West African coast. (The central region of Ashanti life would be modern-day Ghana.) Her life, from beginning to end, was one of resistance and struggle in freedom's cause. There may have been 15 to 19 raids led by her into the South to free Black captives. In these raids, she liberated between 300 to 500 people.

Recruited to aid the Northern forces during the U.S. Civil War, Tubman organized and led the Combahee River raid in South Carolina, which netted some 800 slaves, and caused thousands of dollars damage to Southern installations. She reported with glee the sight of so many people escaping bondage. Tubman would later recall the scene:

"I never saw such a scene. We laughed and laughed and laughed. Here you'd see a woman with a pail on her head, rice-a-smoking in it just as she'd taken it from the fire, young one hanging on behind ... One woman brought two pigs, a white one and a black one; we took them all on board; named the white pig Beauregard (a Southern general), and the black one Jeff Davis (president of the Confederacy). Sometimes the women would come with twins hanging around their necks. It appears I never saw so many twins in my life; bags on their shoulders, baskets on their heads, and young ones lagging behind, all loaded .... [From Butch Lee, *Jailbreak Out of History: The Re-Biography of Harriet Tubman*] (Brooklyn, NY: Stoopsale Bks., 2000), p. 78]

Harriet Tubman left this life in 1913, living into her nineties.

Her name has come to mean freedom fighter. It is a holy name, high on the altar of freedom.

Sources: Lee, Butch. *Jailbreak Out of History: The Re-Biography of Harriet Tubman* (Brooklyn, NY: Stoopsale Bks., 2000). Petry, Ann, *Harriet Tubman, Conductor on the Underground Railroad* (NY: Harper Collins, 1955 [1983]; unpubl. sources].

AR-15 Continued from pg. 4

is an amazing starting point to politicize the next generation of white anti-racists. We capitalize on that fact. Many young white people's favorite musical artist is black, their favorite movie star is black, their favorite sports star is black, and many white youth have black friends or other friends of color. Broadening the analysis for youth of all colors in terms of what systemic oppression is and what it looks like, and what social justice is and looks like is what our work involves. Making this process fun is the tough part, but the advent of multimedia like digital film and music can go a long way if properly harnessed by anti-racist and racial justice activists, artists, and creative-thinkers. We feel blessed to be doing what we do in this historical moment. It's an exciting time to be an anti-racist!

The racist right appears to have a much more seamless integration of its 'cultural' activity with its political organizing strategy than is true among anti-racist forces. That is, white power bands and labels generally have had close organizational ties to white supremacist and/or Christian fascist organizations, funneling money into those efforts and attracting supporters. How do you see your relationship to membership-based anti-racist organizations and networks? How can we create a closer connection between cultural and political efforts against racism and white supremacy?

I think a big part of the "success story" of the racist right in using culture to put their message out there is that they have no qualms about using capitalism and money-making as a way to recruit and politicize. Because of the history of what money has done to poor people and people of color, the tendency on the left to shy away from business moves is understandable. However, the time, money, and access that many white people on the left have (whether they are honest about it or not) can play an important role in galvanizing some of this cultural power to put out a conscious message.

I'd like to see more anti-racist white people work to infiltrate the areas of music, entertainment, media, law, medicine, business, government, etc. and use their personal or professional contacts to help build the movement from inside the ivory towers, as well as from outside. This, I think is the charge to the next generation of white folks in the movement. Instead of shying away from privilege and access, I'd like to see more white folks work to obtain privilege and access consciously and flip it through accountable relationships with racial justice organizations led by folks of color.

I've already mentioned that we donate 25% of our income to local and national racial justice work. I think galvanizing more money for anti-racist work in the white community has to come from white people doing grassroots fundraising in white communities (among family, friends, co-workers, and acquaintances). Integrating fundraising as part of the each one/teach one process of anti-racist culture is crucial. We can't be afraid to ask for money for social justice work!

In terms of white anti-racist organizations, AR-15 works closely with the White Anti-racist Community Action Network (http://www.wacan.org) in New Jersey, the Alliance for White Anti-Racists Everywhere (http://www.aware.revolt.org) in LA, Y-STEP (YSTEPbayarea@gmail.com) in San Francisco, and the White Privilege Conference (http://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com) in Colorado Springs this year, and now Anti-Racist Action (hope this is the beginning of on-going work!) as a means of building a national white anti-racist coalition that is in lock step.

Creating a closer connection between cultural and political efforts against racism and white supremacy and for justice, I believe, is about staying in each other's lives, reaching out, breaking bread. If you are a white anti-racist artist, are you connecting yourself to anti-racist and racial justice political work? If you are a white anti-racist activist, are you connecting yourself to anti-racist and racial justice cultural work? If not, why not? We need to become part of each other's lives. We need each other. White anti-racists can learn much from people of color doing racial justice organizing, where integration of community, culture, and coalition is a basis of the work— many times as a means of survival! We as white anti-racists need to push ourselves to reach out and connect. AR-15 says, "Come get your hugs!" [smile]

Have you had to deal with attacks or threats from white power groups, either to your group or to shows you have appeared in?

We have had no organized resistance to our work, yet. We're hoping for some. [smile] I guess that will be a sign we're doing good work! We've received individual death threats and hate mail, some of which can be seen on the Internet as a response to my video submission to "The (White) Rapper Show." Check out: http://youtube.com/watch?v=nGItc-ej9P8. But we don't spend time and energy on the hate, though. We've got too many positive white folks and people of color who are feeling our message to connect with!

The white 'pride' group Woodpile has been seeking a following among white (and other) prisoners. How do you see AR-15 appealing to or reaching working class white kids in juvie, jail or prison?

Neither Raw Potential nor I have been incarcerated. We've played gigs in juvie halls and the youth were feeling us. Raw grew up on Section 8. I always had enough growing up. We've played for rural and working class audiences that were predominantly white and have received tremendous support. We play wherever people want us. We hope our work inspires more white anti-racists to take a stand and reach out to their own constituencies within the white community, whether their constituency is working class or youth in juvie, jail, or prison, or another community.

In terms of Woodpile, they actually are on an anti-racist trip and a lot of people have it twisted. Check their interview with MurderDog Magazine on the blog on their homepage: http://www.myspace.com/woodpile. They say, "There is going to be the people that don't like what we are doing, promoting hardcore white boys without racism uniting with black dudes. For as many of them who have a problem with it, there will be just as many, if not more, who respect what is going down and see it as a positive movement." They were signed by West Coast Mafia Records run by Sacramento-based rapper C-Bo, who has a lot of street cred in hip-hop, and most people assume would not sign a "white pride" group.

The name Woodpile actually refers to the prison term "wood" given to white dudes in prison who don't affiliate with the Aryan Nation and who kick it with Black and Brown folk behind prison walls. Woodpile's message is less explicitly anti-racist than ours, and as far as I know they don't have a focus on social justice and community organizing. But obviously, any time white people get on the mic and spit about race (including us) people are going to talk.

Anti-Racist Action has had to learn some hard lessons about the persistence of male supremacy and other forms of oppression within the ranks of anti-racists, and struggles hard to connect anti-sexism and support for queer rights into our work. Criticisms of sexism within hip-hop have certainly been extensive, profound and justified. How do you see such issues playing out in your music and the development of AR-15?

We see sexism, heterosexism, classism, and racism and other oppressions as interconnected, and so we connect our work against white supremacy with work against patriarchy, heterosexism and capitalism. As I said before we proactively choose to work with artists of color, women, and queer folk in order to be accountable to these politics. We also pay attention to the lyrics rappers are saying and have a pretty strict policy of not working with artists that spit degrading lyrics. Battling the system and battling people are two different things in our minds. Recruiting and paying street teamers who are poor people, women, people of color, or queer is also a priority for us. Their involvement in the company and as part of our work in local communities definitely helps guide AR-15 and ensures that as an entertainment company and rap group we are accountable, inclusive of all struggles against oppression, and seeking to unite rather than divide.

Any last words of wisdom, information, or questions you would like to raise with readers of Turning the Tide?

Turning the Tide readers should know that AR-15 stands for Anti-Racist Fifteen, fifteen principles that guide our rap group and company. These principles came out of our own mentorship by the Center for Third World Organizing (http://www.ctwo.org) in Oakland, CA and the Challenging White Supremacy workshop (http://www.cwsworkshop.org) in San Francisco, CA. The principles are explained in more depth on our website, but here they are in short:

1. Practice non-violence.
2. Learn anti-racist history.
3. Study legacies of resistance.
4. Research your family history.
5. Respect leadership of color.
6. Stand in solidarity.
7. Challenge oppression.
8. Listen actively.
9. Create anti-racist culture.
10. Act on your principles.

11-15. For future generations to define.

Also people should consider this an open invite to connect with us, come to a show, or join the street team. Let's build an anti-racist culture of resistance! Check out: http://www.AR15hiphop.com

Peace,
Jus Rhyme, AR-15
ar15hiphop@hotmail.com

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Another International Women's Day, another seventy-seven cents on the dollar
Beyond Wage Disparities

By Susan Galleymore

It's still true: for every American man earning $1, a middle class, married American woman earns 77 cents – and many women of color earn less than that.[1] But such a quantitative view rarely indicates the day-to-day lived experience behind the numbers. And wage disparities between American men and women are meaningless in developing countries. Even in countries that have minimum wage regulations – such as South Africa – these are easily ignored. The desperate are forced to accept whatever they're offered rather than stand on principle … and go hungry. After my recent travels to South Africa, Iraq, Israel, and Palestine I can report that, on International Women's Day 2007, overall opportunities for women in these countries have shriveled. In Johannesburg, Baghdad and West Bank villages even a quick look around shows women's lives are more hazardous than ever -- and wage rates are only a small factor in the decline.

South Africa has one of the largest income inequalities in the world. The average income of the richest 20% of South African households, largely white, is 45 times more than the average income of the poorest 20% of households, largely black and African. The majority of this nation's poor are rural African women whose incomes -- between R400 and R700 per month ($1 = R7) -- derive mainly from pensions and remittances from relatives.[2] But the bleak picture for South African women doesn't end there. This country holds the dubious honor of "rape capital of the world." In 1999, one in three of the 4,000 women questioned by the non-governmental organization CIET Africa, said they had been raped in the past year. In a related survey conducted among 1,500 schoolchildren in the Soweto Township, a quarter of all the boys interviewed said that "'jackrolling" – vernacular for recreational gang rape - was "fun." Rape in South Africa frequently culminates in death – by stabbing, by bludgeoning, by strangling, or by a combination of these – and disemboweling is a common coup de grâce. Babies as young as nine months are "jackrolled," too, often by groups of adult men attempting to cure their HIV/AIDS via the mythical "sex with a virgin" prescription. In 2003, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in South African adults was 21.5%. Over 5.3 of 44 million South Africans carry the virus; life expectancy for women is 41.2 years.

Up close and personal: Eleanor is a middle-aged, working class, Xhosa woman with two grown children. The end of Apartheid in 1994 made her life easier: the demise of Apartheid's in-flux laws, for example, allowed her to work legally in Kwa-Zulu Natal where she'd spent her adult life hiding her ethnic origins so as to earn a living as a live-in domestic worker. Apartheid, however, had worked its poison on her children whose economic opportunities were stunted by a system that instilled a view of themselves as good only for menial labor. Eleanor's son, Lucky, found crime paid better than the below minimum wage he earned as a gas station attendant or working for tips as a parking lot attendant. His luck ran out, however, when a young woman he'd raped spotted him in the street and called the police. Lucky is currently awaiting trail in a local jail notorious for inmate-on-inmate rape and an excruciatingly high rate of HIV/AIDS transmission. Eleanor intuitively understands Lucky's future but feels she can't do anything about it: Apartheid may be gone but women's view of the state as omnipotent lives on….

Iraq: Since the United State and its coerced "coalition of the willing" invaded Iraq in March 2003 only the most intrepid statisticians collect data in that unfortunate country… and that data presents a ghastly view. Johns Hopkins researchers estimate that more than a half-million Iraqis have died as a result of the U.S.-led invasion and its bloody aftermath. Researchers for the online edition of a leading British medical journal, The Lancet, estimated that 654,000 more Iraqis died of various causes after the invasion than would have died in a comparable period before. About 600,000 of those deaths are attributed to acts of violence, with gunshots emerging as the leading cause of death (56 percent of the total). Air strikes, car bombs and other explosions each accounted for 13 percent to 14 percent. Almost 60 percent of the deaths were among males 15 to 44. "To put these numbers in context, deaths are occurring in Iraq now at a rate more than three times that from before the invasion of March 2003. In this conflict, like all other recent conflicts, it's the population that bears the consequences," said Dr. Gilbert Burnham, lead author and co-director of the Center for Refugee and Disaster Response at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Up close and personal: Anwar Jeward's husband, son, and two daughters were shot to death when a U.S. patrol opened fire on the family car. Today Anwar lives in her brother's home with her surviving daughter, Abir, and Hassan, the son with whom she was pregnant when the shooting occurred. With marriage one of the few options for some sort of independence and respect for women with Anwar's traditional background, as an over-35-year-old single mother and a widow, her chance at a second marriage is about zero…even if enough marriageable men existed in Iraq. Between half a million and 1.5 million people died in the eight-year war between Iraq and Iran and, with the death toll in current war, Iraqi men are a dwindling portion of the population. So Anwar will live in her brother's home and Abir and Hassan will not even benefit from the social programs that Saddam Hussein offered during his tenure as the U.S.-defined and supported "Butcher of Baghdad." Those programs – free education, a decent and cost-effective national medical plan, and enlightened laws and programs to up-lift Iraqi women and their children -- disappeared with Saddam and the ascendancy of U.S. privatization schemes. Prior to the sanctions imposed upon Iraq during the 1990s, women's salaries had been among the highest in the Arab world. But the fundamentalism and sectarianism generated by the US occupation have dramatically worsened women's situations economically and socially.

Israel and the Occupied Territories are so closely intertwined in the politics of pain that it is difficult to present one without the other. Women in these regions face major differences in access to resources that go far beyond wage disparity. Israeli/Palestinian unemployment rates -- respectively 8.6% to 20.3% in 2006 -- indicate that about 79% of Palestinians are employed. These percentages include Palestinians engaged in agricultural work but don't indicate that many Palestinians farmers and agricultural workers are *not working*. Instead, they are cut off from their workplaces – orchards and fields – by the 30-foot tall concrete wall or wire fence that cuts farmers off from their agricultural lands. Israelis claim the wall is a vital "security barrier" that prevents suicide bombers from entering their towns. More to the point, though, is that just about every action that alleviates an Israeli woman's daily chores – driving a car or catching a bus or taxi, taking a child to a medical facility, assuming relative safety for a child returning home after school – aggravates a Palestinian woman's chores. Some roads in the West Bank, for example, are prohibited to Palestinian cars, buses, and taxis so these travelers are forced miles out of their way to cover short distances.

Up close and personal: Israeli Dorothy and Palestinian Amina present two sides of the same contradictory coin. Dorothy, born in the U.S., went on *Aliyah*[3] to Israel in her teens when the state of Israel was actively encouraging Americans to settle in that land. (Jews from all over the world are still encouraged to immigrate and settle -- despite the hardship this brings to indigenous people.) Dorothy married a first generation Israeli and brought up her children there. She lives a privileged middle-class live in a safe, north Tel Aviv suburb and is active in anti-militarism groups although her grandchildren will almost certainly serve in the Israeli military -- likely in the Occupied Territories where indigenous Palestinian Amina has her home. Ironically, while Amina has ancient roots in Palestine she is barred from accessing much of her ancestral land and its resources available to Dorothy and her family. Amina's three-year-old daughter, Lena, suffers from kidney disease and requires regular dialysis. Dorothy drives on roads closed to Palestinians when she escorts Amina to hospital when Lena's kidney's failed. But, when Dorothy cannot smooth Amina and Lena's way over closed roads, or through Israeli check points, or hospital security systems, Amina and Lena are on their own. Then Amina must carry the child in her arms through the checkpoints where Israeli soldiers arbitrarily refuse to allow her to carry the medical equipment the child requires -- or even the right to travel to a hospital at all. After such refusals, Amina has, alone, in the dark, and in the rain, carried Lena over rock-strewn mountains for emergency medical care in Palestinian hospitals. Without Dorothy, getting the child to an Israeli hospital under these conditions would be impossible. Amina said, "Please understand that most Palestinian women do not have an Israeli ally such as Dorothy to rely on for help. Most Palestinians families struggle against far greater obstacles than I do…."

It is a tough to say whether women are struggling more in 2007 than we were on March 8, 1908, when 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter workdays, better pay and voting rights and inspired IWD. But, it is significant that the comparison can even be made almost one hundred years later -- and that women – and their families – are *still* at risk. Today, the risk is *still* man-made – exploitation and war are *still* primary culprits – but as our climates change and our planet's health declines, wage disparities may come to be seen as small potatoes. It is time, *now*, to stand up for women's rights – and for the planet's health.

(Endnotes)

[1] Institute for Women's Policy Research released on April 20, 2004. http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2003.pdf

[2] Gender Inequality. Http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Urgent_Action/apic_82299.html

[3] *Aliyah* describes the migration of Jews from the Diaspora to Israel.

Anti-Racist Actions in May

Ashanti Alston Speaks

Thursday, May 10

National Co-Chair of Jericho Amnesty Movement,
former Black Panther political prisoner rare West Coast visit

LA Premiere, new video on Mumia Abu-Jamal: Framing an Execution

Thursday, May 17

Narrated by Danny Glover

Both Events at the Southern California Library for Social Studies
6120 S. Vermont, between Slauson & Gage

Legacy of Torture: Free the SF8 Video, show & benefit

Thursday May 24, Cal State LA

For more information on all, call 310-495-0299

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TURNING THE TIDE

The People's Spirit is Greater Than the Man's Technology!

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20th anniversary year of ARA-LA/PART
20th year of publication of Turning the Tide

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Freiheit für Mumia Abu-Jamal!

German book reveals explosive new evidence in death-row case
http://insubordination.blogspot.com/2006/11/freiheit-fr-mumia-abu-jamal_24.html
by Hans Bennett

"The history of the criminal case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, which is by now almost 25 years old, has been characterized by bias right from the start -- against a black man whom the court denied a jury of his peers, against a member of the economic underclass who did not have a real claim to a qualified defense, and against a radical, whose allegedly dangerous militancy obliged the state to eliminate him from the ranks of society." So writes German author Michael Schiffmann in his new book *Race Against Death: Mumia Abu-Jamal, a Black Revolutionary in White America* (an expansion of Schiffmann's PhD dissertation), just released in Germany.

In 1982, Abu-Jamal was convicted of killing white Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner and sentenced to death in a trial that Amnesty International has declared a "violation of minimum international standards that govern fair trial procedures and the use of the death penalty."

Schiffmann writes that a third person (not Abu-Jamal or his brother Billy Cook) most likely shot and killed police officer Daniel Faulkner on the morning of December 9, 1981. This third person was Kenneth Freeman (Billy Cook's friend and business partner), who according to the available evidence was a passenger in Cook's car. Freeman likely shot him in response to Faulkner shooting Abu-Jamal in the chest, and was therefore the black male that six eyewitnesses reported seeing flee the scene moments before other police arrived.

Race Against Death asserts that ballistics almost certainly rule out Abu-Jamal as firing the first shot (into Faulkner's back), and that much evidence shows that he also didn't fire the lethal bullet to Faulkner's head. However, in the very unlikely scenario that Abu-Jamal did shoot Faulkner, it would have been a response to being shot himself and would therefore be justified self-defense. Noam Chomsky writes that Schiffmann's "careful and scrupulous inquiry into the events and the available evidence brings to light much that is new or was obscured," and "raises understanding of this painful and critically important case to a new level. Not only his comprehensive research, but also his penetrating evaluation of the background and import, should be the basis for further engagement in the case itself and the intricate array of issues in which it is embedded."

Building upon evidence presented in the other two books written about Abu-Jamal's case (Dan Williams' 2001 Executing Justice and Dave Lindorff's 2003 Killing Time), Schiffmann presents new evidence and an entirely original analysis of previously available ballistics evidence.

A New Witness: Photographer Pedro Polakoff

In May, 2006, Schiffmann discovered two photographs on the Internet that were taken by the only press photographer immediately present at the crime scene Pedro Polakoff. The photographer arrived within 12 minutes of hearing about the shooting on the police radio and 10 minutes before the Mobile Crime Unit (responsible for forensics and photographs). This unit still hadn't taken any photos when Polakoff left after 30-45 minutes at the scene. Upon contacting Polakoff, Schiffmann learned that three of his 31 original shots were published in Philly newspapers at the time, and five others were lost. Schiffmann told me that he "published five of the 26 remaining photos to show the following three points:

"1) The cops manipulated evidence and supplied the trial court with stuff that was simply stage-managed. On Polakoff's photos, Faulkner's police hat at first is clearly on the roof of Billy Cook's VW, and only later on the sidewalk in front of 1234 Locust where it was photographed by the police photographer who arrived 10 minutes after Polakoff!

"2) In court Officer James Forbes claimed that he had 'secured' the weapons of both Faulkner and Mumia without touching them on their metal parts in order to not destroy potential fingerprints. However, in the single photo reprinted in the book you can see that Forbes is touching the weapons on their metal parts, and quite a few of Polakoff's other photos make it clear that Forbes touched and smudged these weapons all over, destroying any potential fingerprint evidence that may have been on them.

"3) The second-most important prosecution witness, cab driver Robert Chobert, simply was not parked in the spot, allegedly right behind Officer Faulkner's police squad car, where he claimed to have been and from where he claimed to have observed Mumia fire the shot that killed the officer."
Polakoff's observations don't stop there. Schiffmann writes: "According to Polakoff, at that time all the officers present expressed the firm conviction that Abu-Jamal had been the passenger in Billy Cook's VW and had fired and killed Faulkner by a single shot fired from the passenger seat of the car."

"Polakoff further reports that this opinion on the part of the police about what had happened was apparently based on the testimony of three witnesses who were still present at the crime scene, namely, by the parking lot attendant in charge of the parking lot on the Northern side of Locust Street, by a drug addicted woman apparently acquainted with the parking lot attendant, and another woman. As Polakoff later heard from colleagues in the media, the parking lot attendant had disappeared the day after, while the drug-addicted witness died a couple of days later from an overdose. Whatever it was that these witnesses saw or did not see, we will probably never know the interesting fact in any case is that neither of them ever appeared in any report presented by the police or the prosecution."

Polakoff told Schiffmann that he was simply ignored when he repeatedly contacted the DA's office to give them his account--and his photos--of the crime scene. Schiffmann has informed Mumia's lawyers about Polakoff's evidence--who are looking into it further.

No Bullet Traces in Sidewalk

The prosecution claims that Mumia stood over and shot at Faulkner 3-4 times (with only one shot hitting him) while Faulkner was lying on his back. Schiffmann asserts that if this was true, there would have had to have been 2-3 large divots in the pavement (next to Faulkner's body) resulting from the bullets' impact. Since photos and police reports do not reveal any damage or bullet fragments in that location, Schiffmann concludes that the prosecution scenario must be false.

While this "missing divots" observation was publicly revealed in 2001 by Mumia's former lawyers, Schiffmann is the first writer to investigate this further. To support the assertion Schiffmann interviewed a German ballistics expert and was told that "such divots couldn't possibly have been overlooked." He concludes: "They were simply not there." Furthermore, photographer Pedro Polakoff, "emphatically denied that there could be any such divots beneath the blood or anywhere else in the area of the sidewalk to be seen on his photos."

After asserting the fraudulence of the prosecution's scenario, Schiffmann goes further and declares that the three prosecution witnesses supporting this scenario must have been lying. Even ignoring previous evidence that witnesses Robert Chobert and Cynthia White falsely testified, "the absence of any bullet traces or bullets in the sidewalk in front of 1234 Locust is irrefutable physical evidence that these two, plus witness Michael Scanlan, did not tell the truth at Mumia's trial. By that simple observation a central part of the prosecution's theory is simply blown out of the water and new evidence is on the table thereby for the coaching, coercion and manipulation of witnesses."

Bullet and Fragments at Crime Scene

Schiffmann's entirely original ballistics analysis is the most explosive section of *Race Against Death*. Researched for more than three years, this chapter analyzes both the unexplained bullet & fragments found in the doorway of 1234 Locust Street and the copper bullet jacket found on the sidewalk (all a full car-length from Officer Faulkner's body).

Most likely the bullet shot into Faulkner's back (traveling upward and exiting slightly beneath his throat) came from the sidewalk behind Faulkner as he was facing northwest towards Mumia and towards the parking lot situated at the northeastern corner of the intersection 13th and Locust where Mumia came from. The logical way for Mumia to have approached the scene was diagonally from northwest to southeast. But the only bullet fragment found in or around 1234 Locust that could have had anything to do with the shot in Faulkner's back traveled from Northeast to Southwest, at a sharp angle from where Mumia was approaching the scene! Schiffmann shows that even if Mumia had approached the scene in an indirect and awkward way by almost circumventing it first, the bullet fragment in question cannot have come from a shot fired by him at that time.

Schiffmann writes that "this evidence shows that the first shot that hit Faulkner did not come from the direction from which Abu-Jamal approached the scene, could therefore not have been fired by Abu-Jamal, and was thus necessarily fired by some third person, a possibility that the prosecution has always adamantly denied." Schiffmann told me: "The first key point is that Mumia is no murderer. If he shot at all, he shot to defend his own life, after he intervened at the scene in the first place to protect his brother who had already been beaten bloody."

"Second, it is very unlikely that Mumia even took his gun out of its holster during that fateful night. What if the destruction of fingerprint evidence on Mumia's gun (shown in Polakoff's photos) was not just negligent, but deliberate? It would mean that the police themselves were the ones who drew Mumia's weapon (which had been empty apart from five spent cartridges to begin with) out of his shoulder holster."

The Third Person: Ken Freeman?

Schiffmann cites six witnesses (including several who were intimidated by police) that saw someone run away before police arrived, and then argues that this third person was most likely Billy Cook's business partner and friend, Kenneth Freeman. In the 1995 PCRA hearings it was revealed that Faulkner had a license application in his front pocket (concealed from the defense for 13 years) for Arnold Howard who testified that he had loaned his temporary (non-photo) license to Kenneth Freeman.

Schiffmann explained to me that "Billy Cook's attorney Daniel Alva told Dave Lindorff (quoted in *Killing Time*) that Cook had told him within days after the shooting that Freeman had been with him that night. There wasn't the slightest reason for Alva do have done so if it was not indeed true. Lying to journalists doesn't belong to the duties of a defense attorney, and the assumption that a well-respected member of the Philadelphia legal community such as Alva would do so for no apparent reason makes little sense to me."

Returning to his ballistics analysis, Schiffmann argues: "A person coming out of the passenger seat of Billy Cook's VW would have been ideally placed to fire the shot that hit Faulkner in the back and exited through the region below his throat. Faulkner had on a clip-on police tie that was apparently hit right at that clip (since there was blood and lead on it). The tie was found nowhere near 1234 Locust where it should have been found had Mumia fired that shot in Faulkner's back. Instead, it was on the Northern side of Locust shortly before the intersection 13th and Locust. And this, in turn, means that the shooter must have been on the sidewalk in front of 1234 Locust not in the street coming from the parking lot, as Mumia was."

Further supporting Schiffmann's argument are the mysterious circumstance of Freeman's death. On May 13, 1985 (the same day police firebombed the MOVE organization's headquarters) Freeman was found dead in a parking lot. Likely murdered by police that day, he was found naked, handcuffed and had a drug needle in his arm. Given the impossibility of injecting himself with the needle while handcuffed, the official explanation for the 31year-old's death (heart attack) seems incredible.

"If Freeman was indeed killed by cops, the killing probably was part of a general vendetta of the Philadelphia cops against their 'enemies' and the cops killed him because they knew or suspected he had something to do with the killing of Faulkner," said Schiffmann.

Freiheit für Mumia Abu-Jamal!

Noam Chomsky argues that "Mumia's case is symbolic of something much broader... The US prison system is simply class and race war... Mumia and other prisoners are the kind of people that get assassinated by what's called 'social cleansing' in US client states like Colombia."

Schiffmann also feels that Mumia's case is part of a much larger picture and devotes most of his book to providing a proper historical context. "Determined not to write the typical boring academic tract," Schiffmann told me: "My book's not just about Mumia. His case is important because of the larger legal, political, and social issues that his case exposes. I investigate the US constitutional tradition, the history of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements, the horrendous history of urban development in the US tragically exemplified in Philadelphia, Mumia's extraordinary yet typical history of a Black youth alienated by the false promises the US 'offered' for him as a young man of the wrong color, and finally the development of the US into a virtual police state for many segments of the population."

Schiffmann emphasizes the extreme importance of Mumia's current battle in the courtroom, but feels that solid legal strategy will only go so far in gaining a new trial. The key will be to exert maximum political pressure from the grassroots in Philadelphia and around the world. A "broad, multi-faceted and democratic mass-movement," emphasizing that "Mumia is all of us," must be used to ensure real justice. He told me, "We have kept Mumia alive. Against the odds, we have won the first stage of an uphill battle. Now we must go on all the way and that is to free Mumia Abu-Jamal!"

This review is based on both an exclusive reading of the (unpublished) English language version of Race Against Death and the author's recent full-length interview with Schiffmann about his book and the German movement supporting Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Michael Schiffmann's book *Race Against Death: Mumia Abu-Jamal, a Black Revolutionary in White America* has just been released in Germany. Schiffmann is still looking for a US publisher. He can be contacted via email: mikschiff@t-online.de. His website is www.againstthecrimeofsilence.de.

Hans Bennett is a Philadelphia-based photo-journalist who has been documenting the movement to free Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners for over 5 years. You can read his work at www.insubordination.blogspot.com

LACMA: The Oil Museum

By Mark Vallen, www.art-for-a-change.com/blog

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), after receiving $25 million from the multinational oil company BP (British Petroleum), plans to dedicate a new entry gate and pavilion to the energy Goliath. To be christened the "BP Grand Entrance," the construction is an edifice to big oil and the clearest example yet of the increasing corporatization of the arts in America.

Historically, the largesse of wealthy benefactors has always played a role in the arts, with the names of well-heeled patrons gracing museum wings and collections. But there is something unseemly about naming part of an art museum after a transnational oil conglomerate - especially when considering the increasingly toxic role of oil companies in today's world. President of BP America, Bob Malone, said the donation represents the energy giant's "commitment to the arts" - but scrutiny of the endowment reveals a public relations campaign designed to erase public memory of BP's dirty doings.

BP's contribution will go towards a costly three-part expansion and renovation of LACMA's facilities. The oil leviathan's cash has swollen the money available for the first phase construction to $191 million. Italian architect Renzo Piano has won the commission to redesign and unify LACMA's expansive site. Billionaire Eli Broad and his wife Edythe gave $60 million to the overhaul project. The Broad Contemporary Art Museum, to be built just west of the "BP Grand Entrance", will connect to LACMA's existing main wing and will house Eli Broad's collection of modern art. The new LACMA and its edifice to the petroleum industry is scheduled to open Feb. 2008.

In a March 6 article on the oil company's "gift" to LACMA, the LA Times noted that, "Putting an oil company's name on LACMA's doorway brings an unusually high potential for controversy." Indeed! Despite the endless and well-financed public relations spin concerning BP's alleged "commitment to sustainable energy", the fact of the matter is that BP is part of the "OILigarchy" - the rapacious fossil fuel industry responsible for global warming and environmental destruction. BP reported profits of $22 billion in 2006, and the company currently has an ongoing commitment to increase its oil production by 5% - a policy that must be linked to the crisis of fossil fuel-induced climate change.

BP invests less than 1% of its annual budget in solar and other renewable energy sources - a smaller amount than it spends yearly on public relations and advertising. That fact must be kept in mind, as the "BP Grand Entrance" pavilion will be topped by solar panels allegedly there to help fill LACMA's energy needs. However, the real task of the solar panels is a propagandistic one. BP wishes to pawn itself off as a "green" energy company, and LACMA - for a price - is only too happy to collude.

As the Times noted, BP has paid more than $125 million in legal settlements in California since 2002. "BP paid the state $45.8 million to settle a suit over pollution from leaking gasoline storage tanks. Later, air quality regulators sued over leakage of smog-forming chemicals at BP's Carson refinery. BP settled for $81 million." In 2005, BP's Texas City Refinery exploded, killing 15 workers and injuring 170. U.S. government agencies investigating the blast found that BP's excessive safety and budget cuts had led to the tragedy. More than 1,700 lawsuits have been filed by injured workers, with some 1,200 claims being settled out of court by BP in order to avoid bad publicity. The company has set aside $1.6 billion to settle cases out of court. In the wake of the explosion in Texas, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) opened investigations into two of BP's Midwestern refineries, finding the oil giant guilty of violating 39 safety regulations. OSHA issued penalty citations totaling $2.4 million dollars - BP hopes to settle out of court.

In 2006 BP was forced to shut down half of its oil operations in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, when the company's worn-out, corroded pipelines began to leak - dumping an estimated 200,000 gallons of crude oil onto Alaskan tundra. On March 6th, 2007, Reuters reported that "Oil major BP's failure to maintain pipelines properly at its giant Prudhoe Bay field was a major factor behind Alaska's worst-ever onshore crude spill last year." Reuters interviewed Thomas Barret, the head of the U.S. Department of Transport (one of the U.S. government agencies investigating the spill), who said: "What was most unusual was to have an operator like BP not maintaining these pipelines to the standards we typically see in the industry."

BP is behind the controversial Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline - the second longest pipeline in the world - transporting crude oil from fields in the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean Sea. The pipeline runs across the countries of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey, all of which are conflict zones with notorious human rights records. BP has signed "production-sharing agreements" with the three host governments, neo-colonial contracts that bypass respective national environmental and social laws and place the overwhelming majority of profits in the hands of BP and its partners.

Speaking of oil pipelines in conflict zones, in 2006 BP secretively paid out a multi-million dollar settlement to Colombian farmers who were terrorized by right-wing death squads "protecting" BP's 500-mile long Ocensa oil pipeline. A thousand poor Colombian farmers filed a human rights challenge in the High Court of London, charging BP with benefiting from the bullying and persecution meted out by the rightist militias. A Colombian lawyer attempting to assist the farmers discovered she was on a paramilitary death list, and fled to Britain where she was granted political asylum. While the total compensation paid to the farmers is unknown, it is believed to have totaled in the tens of millions of dollars. Part of the settlement stipulated BP would bear "no admission of liability" for the beatings, death threats, and property damage suffered by the farmers.

Of course BP has a long history in the Middle East, where 70% of the world's oil reserves are found. Western powers thirsty for petroleum and a need to control the region's black gold have historically resorted to colonialism, the backing of dictatorships, the proliferation of weapons, and as we see today in Iraq - outright war and occupation. During the first week of March, the Anglo-American backed government of Iraq, approved a draft law that will essentially turn over Iraq's oil wealth to American and British companies. The Iraqi oil legislation bill promotes a "production-sharing agreement" that would guarantee foreign companies up to 70 percent of the revenues obtained from exploiting Iraqi oil, giving U.S. and British oil companies the unrestricted right to take oil profits out of the country, rather than reinvesting them in Iraq. The lion's share of Iraq oil profits will therefore go to Shell, ChevronTexaco, ExxonMobil, and yes - BP. The draft law still needs final Iraqi government approval before it can be enacted, but with U.S. and British military might keeping the Iraqi government in power - passage is sure to be a "done deal."

The roots of BP's meddling in the Middle East go back to 1909. Through an agreement with the Shah of Iran, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (APOC) began to exploit the oil resources of Persia, obtaining petroleum that fed the British war machine during World War 1. In 1936 Persia was renamed Iran, and APOC became the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC). In 1951 the Iranian parliament passed a bill that nationalized the oil industry, effectively barring British exploitation of Iranian petroleum and causing the Shah - and AIOC - to flee the country. The British then colluded with the U.S. and the C.I.A. to organize the infamous coup that overthrew Prime Minister Mossadeq and his democratically elected government. On August 19th, 1953, Mossadeq was driven from power, the pro-Western Shah was restored, and in 1954 AIOC became known as The British Petroleum Company (BP) - which of course immediately resumed pumping oil out of Iran.

It's not surprising others have taken notice of BP's destructive schemes, and have called for resistance to big oil's sponsorship of the arts. The National Portrait Gallery of London, England, was established in 1856, and it's the repository for some of that nation's greatest historic portraits. The gallery holds an annual portrait competition that has launched the careers of several portrait artists. Since 2004, the competition has been sponsored by BP, and the competition is now known as the "BP Portrait Award."

In response, English artists and environmental activists started a group called Art Not Oil, which seeks to end oil industry sponsorship of the arts. The group's mission statement encourages "artists to create work that explores the damage that companies like BP and Shell are doing to the planet, and the role art can play in counteracting that damage." The misconduct of BP and other oil companies is continually and determinedly exposed through the art exhibits, educational forums and public protests mounted by the artist activists of Art Not Oil. It is time to establish a similar organization in Los Angeles - or get used to calling LACMA - The Oil Museum.

"Vision without action is daydream. Action without vision is nightmare." - Japanese proverb

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Persecuting Panthers

The SF 8 and the Ongoing War against the Black Panther Party for Self Defense

by Kiilu Nyasha

Last year, the Black Panther Party for Self Defense celebrated its 40th anniversary, garnering coverage of its history and the positive impact it had on communities here and around the world. Activities across the country preceded a very successful Oakland reunion that drew Panthers from as far away as Tanzania. Little did we know that the same forces who attacked and destroyed the Party were busy planning still more attacks on its former members. (Note: The BPP no longer exists, but in keeping with our slogan, "once a Panther, always a Panther," I'll not be referring to our brothers as "ex-Panthers.") On Jan. 23, police in NY, FL and CA arrested Francisco Torres, Harold Taylor, Richard Brown, Richard O'Neal, Ray Boudreaux and Henry Watson Jones on charges related to the 1971 killing of a San Francisco police officer – and also charged two political prisoners, Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim (Anthony Bottom). They're both parole-eligible after over 30 years in prison.

Ten brothers would have been arrested had it not been for the fact that one, Ronald Stanley Bridgeforth, has not been seen or heard from in over 30 years and is still being sought. And John Bowman, one of five who resisted a Grand Jury witch-hunt in the case, and one of those who survived torture by the police 30 years ago, is deceased. JB died last Dec. 23 of terminal cancer that went undiagnosed by this medical system until its advanced stage. The FBI literally hounded him to his death and beyond; they sought to open his casket – there wasn't one; he was cremated – they interrogated family members and the funeral director and they even visited the crematorium voicing suspicions that he had escaped. Unbelievable!

The grand jury resisters – Bowman, Brown, O'Neal, Taylor and Boudreaux – were subpoenaed in 2003 in what was the opening salvo of this bogus case. Refusing to testify, they were jailed for the jury's duration. Upon release, in view of the Abu Ghraib torture scandal, their own torture, and the ongoing violation of their constitutional and human rights, they felt compelled to alert the public to the similarity of tortures perpetrated behind walls in the U.S. So they founded CDHR and began touring to educate people about COINTELPRO, the USA PATRIOT Act, and this latest witch-hunt.

Earlier persecution of Panthers included the framing of geronimo ji Jaga (Pratt), 27 years in California prisons until exonerated in 1996, winning a subsequent lawsuit; Dhoruba bin Wahad (Richard Moore), 19 years before exoneration and a million-dollar settlement in 2000; and the NY 21, who were all found "not guilty!" Nor can we forget the state's plot to execute Mumia Abu Jamal, who has been locked on Pennsylvania's death row for 25 years for a murder he clearly didn't commit. Not to mention countless other Panthers imprisoned for up to 40 years.

The original investigation of the killing of Sgt. John Young began with the arrest in New Orleans, in 1973, of JB, Taylor and Ruben Scott. Two SF detectives interrogated them and supervised their torture by New Orleans police for several days. The brothers were isolated from one another, stripped naked and handcuffed to a chair, covered with boiling hot blankets and plastic bags tied over their heads threatening suffocation. Cattle prods were used to inflict electric shocks to their genitals and anus, and they were brutally beaten with blackjacks and other objects. Taylor described being kicked in the back of the neck unconscious, then kicked back awake four or five times in an hour. The prolonged torture left the brothers with permanent injuries, including damaged ear drums, chronic pain, knee problems, arthritis and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder such as trouble sleeping and nightmares.

At that time, they made torture-induced confessions, but such "evidence" is neither credible nor legal. So in 1975, a San Francisco judge dismissed the case. It's outrageous that these same charges are again being brought against eight elders ranging in age from 55 to 71, all of whom now face conspiracy charges for the period from 1968-73. It was during this very period that 41 FBI field offices were advised by a memo from the FBI director to "be alert to have [Panthers] arrested" on virtually any charges they could trump up. This is the same period when Panthers were struggling to meet people's basic needs through free breakfast programs, clothing drives, health clinics, sickle cell testing, alternative schools, organizing against rent hikes and substandard housing, and advocating for community control of local police to stop them from murdering and brutalizing our people. This resurrected case must be understood through the historical lens of the FBI's COINTELPRO working in concert with local police departments. These forces, led by J. Edgar Hoover, targeted the Panthers for neutralization (incarceration, assassination or isolation) with an official reign of terror encompassing 1968-1973, or until a clandestine group raided FBI files and exposed its illegal operations.

Under the leadership of the late Sen. Frank Church, hearings were held resulting in passage of the Freedom of Information Act of 1973, allowing individuals to obtain copies of their secret files. This prompted lawsuits against the government and others. For example, I was one of numerous plaintiffs in a wiretap lawsuit settled out of court in New Haven against the City, the FBI, the Chief of Police and the phone company. Today, that wouldn't be possible, because wiretapping is legal under the USA PATRIOT Act. By 1973, at least 32 Panthers, including Field Marshall George Jackson, had been killed by so-called law enforcement. The most blatant was the premeditated assassination of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in Chicago. A million-dollar civil lawsuit was won, but not one policeman who participated in the predawn assault was ever indicted. COINTELPRO under Nixon regrouped under Bush when Attorney General John Ashcroft's Justice Dept. began anew the persecution of Panthers. In fact, before leaving office, Ashcroft sought to reopen all cases of police killings dating back to the '60s.

Collectively, the San Francisco 8 are a group of Black community activists who served the people in the BPP activities mentioned above. They are fathers, grandfathers and even great grandfathers.

Richard Brown, 65, has worked for decades San Francisco's Fillmore District. "He was at community meetings at night, on boards, in the neighborhood, working for affordable housing. His job was never 9 to 5," said Rev. Arnold Townsend, who has known Brown for 40 years. A program coordinator at the Ella Hill Hutch Community Center, he's also a founding member of the African American Police Community Relations Board and several other neighborhood organizations. "He has a fantastic rapport with the young people," Jim Queen, a commissioner with the city's Juvenile Probation Department, told the SF Chronicle. "He grew up there and had a special way with the kids, a stern tough-love way. He demanded high standards and made sure he was always available to them."

Likewise, the Chronicle noted that Richard O'Neal, 57, "who has two grown sons ... has worked for the past few years at the Southeast Community Center. ... People who work there said they were stunned by his arrest, recalling him as a kind and gentle man who always had a smile on his face and would at times stay late to fix lights or other things." Veronica Hunnicutt, the dean of the Southeast college campus, exclaimed, "Oh, my God, we're just utterly stunned. It's taken us all aback because he is such a nice man. He is a trusted employee who would do anything to help us. I hope they look at all of the information, because this man has been wonderful out here. He would take the shirt off his back to try to help you."

Ray Boudreaux, 64, a Vietnam vet who resided in Altadena, Calif., was employed for the past 25 years as an electrician for the County of Los Angeles and did community work until his arrest. "People come to me sometimes as a peacemaker. And all of that has to do with all of my experience."

Herman Bell, 59, of Mississippi, and Jalil Muntaqim (Anthony Bottom), 55, of San Francisco, joined the Party in the Bay Area, where they began their long service to the people. Captured in the early 1970s, along with Albert Nuh Washington and Gabriel and Francisco Torres, they were framed for the killing of two policemen in New York City in May 1971. I saw Jalil and Nuh in the San Francisco court when they were arraigned in 1971. In 2007, it's déjà vu! Their first trial ended in a hung jury. In a second trial, perjured and coerced testimony – including that of Ruben Scott, tortured in New Orleans – resulted in convictions of three brothers, who got 25-life. The trial judge had refused to hear any testimony about COINTELPRO. In April 2000, after 29 years in prison, Nuh Washington passed away from cancer. Herman and Jalil have maintained close ties to their families. In 2000, Jalil was featured in an Essence magazine article on father-daughter relationships. Both continued to grow and contribute to society despite being locked up all these decades. They earned Bas and MAs, tutored and counseled prisoners, and worked with community activists outside to organize the Victory Gardens Project, the urban-rural connection to plant, harvest and distribute free food to various 'hoods along the East Coast. This life-giving project enjoyed eight successful seasons. Jalil is also the founder of the Jericho Amnesty Movement to free political prisoners.

Harold Taylor, 58, was living in Panama City, FL, where he remained committed to his principles and community. He had joined the BPP in LA. In a 2006 interview, Harold described how the FBI "used informants, agents and provocateurs to entrap people." In fact, the FBI had infiltrated 67 agents into the BPP and deployed 700 informants nationwide. "In 2003 the detectives that were responsible for my torture came to my house to try and question me. I have not been the same since," said Taylor.

Henry W. (Hank) Jones, 71, of Altadena, a responsible family and community elder, was employed as a real estate appraiser before his arrest. "I [have lived] under the constant threat of another ... incarceration. In essence I have been robbed of peace of mind, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," said Jones when in 2003 he was subpoenaed to testify before the grand jury and resisted.

Francisco Torres, 58, was born in Puerto Rico and raised in New York City. A Vietnam veteran, he's been an activist since his discharge from the military in 1969 in veterans' and community affairs and has worked with troubled youth right up until his recent arrest and extradition to San Francisco from Queens, N.Y.

These brothers are being kept in jail needlessly on bails of $3 million each – reduced from $5 million! Where are all the wealthy Black entertainers and sports figures who claim to want to give back to their communities? Here's a golden opportunity for you to give back to our community activists! They present no flight risk, are highly respected members of their communities and should be returned to their families as soon as possible. Equity in property can be used to secure release on bail without any permanent sacrifice of personal or community resources. Hearings will be held in the next weeks to request a lowering of bail for these brothers, making it more realistic to secure their release during these lengthy "conspiracy" hearings. For more information on the SF 8 and how you can help, please go to www.CDHRsupport.org.

Black History

Tulsa Public Schools ain't never taught me shhhh
About it
Yea, I know about Malcolm X
And Martin Luther
What about Sojourner the Truth
And Fredrick Douglas?
See those two names were hard for me to pull
Because your history classes were too full

And the teacher was too busy
Too busy teaching European and Western civilization
To teach my little chocolate ass
About Kenya
Nigeria
Tanzania
Or hell where my name came from
Tunisia

Public school system,
you're robbing me
Of my history
My ancestry

I don't know how I came to be
Where I came from
Because it's sure not Tulsa, Oklahoma
Or Wichita, Kansas

It's sad to know that I don't know who my
Great Great Grandmother
Or Grandfather Be
It's really horrible that I speak Ebonically
Unconsciously

See I don't know who comes before Hugh Maxwell
and Nelly
Because the census of 1920
Didn't care too much for me

Check W for white
N for Negro
No names and birth dates
Just how many are in your household
They didn't care if they misspelled our names
On the United States roll call
Because after all
Who the hell cares?
Where we came from?

See, truly it's about the powers that be
Because they truly have a lot of power over you
And me
If your skin's any shade of brown, black or blue

Taking my history away
Leaving me to believe that my only history
Is that we were once slaves
But fuck that because
My ancestry started way before that
But how can I ever trace it
You made sure I could never find out
About my true roots

I refuse to believe that my ancestry started from a slave
They are a part of my history
Yes indeedy
But baby I want to know
Who gave birth to them
And them
And them
And them
And
What did they do all day?
Because Believe me
Kunta is not the sum of my history

But media
Society
And public schooling
Want me to believe in that American dream
And forget that we were the descendants
Of kings
And queens.
It's the greatest tool of deceiving
And
It's a powerful way to demean the Black Community.

Tanisha Alexander AKA Phenomenally
3/25/07

Dear Editor,

The March-April 2007 issue of _Turning the Tide_ contains an article entitled, *From a White Male's Perspective: An Opinion*. The author complains about "Black-on-White bias crimes."

In response, I would like to tell a story: in the 1970s, I worked at a nursing home in Los Angeles. One of my co-workers had a shift that began early in the morning, and he told me how he had once been mugged on his way to work. He said that he could understand that they needed the money, but asked why they had to beat up people.

I took some thirty years figuring out the answer to my former co-worker's question, with the help of W.E.B. Du Bois: they were getting even. White middle-class people take revenge through the criminal justice system, which concentrates on crimes which suburban dwellers tend to associate with people of color and the poor. The author should consider if what he sees as racism on the part of African Americans is really a form of resistance.

Some people may deplore a cycle of retaliation and counter-retaliation, without being critical of the police and the criminal justice system. People of color are angry because of racism, past and present. We have every reason to be angry.

The government of the United States can try to respond to angry people of color through violence and the threat of violence, or it can make concessions to us. Armies and police forces can only do so much. The United States, Europe and Japan need to target global economic inequality. Privileged people in general need to work on giving up privilege.

--Milton Takei, Eugene, OR

Editor's reply:

Although we agree that people of color have every reason to be angry, and that people with privilege, particularly white-skin privilege, have a responsibility to overcome and uproot privilege, oppression and the system of white supremacy, we don't believe that those imperatives justify beatings or "retaliatory" crimes or violence. Retaliation may be morally justified and strategically sound against a specific perpetrator of injustice, exploitation and racism. It is not justified on the basis of skin color, even in a system based on skin-color racism and colonialism. Anti-colonial revolutionaries of color have always sought to transcend and transform the reactive criminal mentality or narrow nationalism of the oppressed with a strategic revolutionary consciousness, because the former ideologies are self-defeating and ultimately do nothing to eradicate the conditions they are reacting to. The system is reinforced, not threatened, by criminality and by oppressed people directing violence against themselves and each other or against randomly, racially selected individuals. Confusing such reactionary violence with self-defense, or with the strategic application of revolutionary force against the oppressors and exploiters, only serves to deter and disorient people who could undertake a revolutionary opposition to the system of empire.

A.R.A. ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK
FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) WE GO WHERE THEY GO: When fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the streets!

2) WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK: This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we rely on ourselves to protect ourselves & stop the fascists.

3) NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS: In ARA, we have different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement, an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) WE SUPPORT ABORTION RIGHTS AND REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM: ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, class exploitation, repression, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a classless society.
WE INTEND TO WIN

Call for the Second Survivors Assembly:
"Build a Strong, Independent Gulf Coast Self-Determination and Reconstruction Movement so the People Can Decide!"

In accord with the principle that "the People Must Decide", the People's Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition (PHRF/OC) calls for the convening of the Second Survivors Assembly on Saturday, August 25th – Tuesday, August 28th, 2007 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The First Survivors Assembly was held in Jackson, Mississippi on December 8 – 9th, 2005, less than 4 months following the horrific disaster and during the most repressive and emotionally devastating period for Survivors since the trauma caused by Hurricane Katrina. The First Survivors Assembly provided a critical organizing vehicle for the Survivors and helped outline a program for the initiation of a Gulf Coast Self-Determination and Reconstruction Movement.

The First Survivors Assembly was attended by more than 250 Survivors and more than 300 allies from cities in over 10 states throughout the US. The First Survivors Assembly was followed by the "People Must Decide" march and rally on December 10th, 2005 in New Orleans where more than 5,000 people demanded justice, accountability and the right of return. The program developed out of the First Survivors Assembly informed the basic direction of the work of the many social, political, religious and civic organizations, students and progressive legal and technical forces who have become involved in the broad social justice activities around Katrina and Rita recovery and reconstruction over the past 17 months.

However, a major weakness following the First Survivors Assembly has been the failure to solidify a coordinating body to bring about greater cooperation and coordination of the common areas of work of the various groups and campaigns. The Second Survivors Assembly must ensure that such a coordinating body and its role are discussed and put in place as major components of the Reconstruction Movement. The Second Assembly is thus a continuation and further development of a process of self-determination and empowerment of a Black-led grassroots movement for Reconstruction beneficial to all oppressed, working and poor people in the impacted Gulf Coast Region.

The Second Survivors Assembly is being held in conjunction with the 2nd Commemoration of Hurricane Katrina and the convening of the International Tribunal on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, where the US government will be tried for its various Katrina related human rights violations. This intersection of activities reflects the growing regional, national and international character and political scope of the Gulf Coast Self-Determination and Reconstruction Movement. The peoples of the Gulf Coast need a strong and unifying Black led Reconstruction Movement and program to build and mobilize effective mass based power to bring about massive improvements and changes to ensure a just Reconstruction for the region and people impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Seventeen months after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the conditions in New Orleans in particular make clear that the US government does not intend to act in good faith in addressing the needs of the Black majority.

* More than 400,000 remain displaced;
* More than 200,000 are under or unemployed;
* Most devastated housing remains uninhabitable;
* Government policies systematically deny restitution and rental assistance to renters in all Gulf Coast states;
* Rents have tripled on average in all devastated areas;
* Government officials still have not dispersed 98% of recovery funds to homeowners in either Mississippi or Louisiana;
* While disaster profiteers have made a killing, wages remain stagnant throughout the region;
* Corporate and government action has destroyed the Teachers, Hospital Workers and Bus Drivers unions;
* Corporations and other employers have largely excluded Black workers from reconstruction jobs, preferring to ruthlessly exploit unprotected immigrant workers; and the tragedies go on and on.

Over the past 17 months, there have been many, many valiant efforts of resistance to this program of Black ethnic cleansing. However, the resistance has been extremely fragmented and isolated from the masses. While there have many important ongoing areas of work to resist the government and corporate strategy of Black ethnic cleansing, they have not taken on the character of a coherent mass movement for Reconstruction. There is no united front mechanism to work for cooperation and unity around common areas of work. Competition, tensions and divisions among various organizations involved in Katrina work have brought about fragmentation. There have not been adequate funds and resources to support a solid core of fulltime organizers. The solidarity movement has only developed to the level of a small network of progressive activists and lacks sufficient national and international scope and depth of organization and influence in key social movements like the Black. Latino, women's, labor, youth, student, LGBT, etc., liberation movements. There has been no focus on building a political organization to challenge for areas of political power and control for the Reconstruction Movement.

The Black, oppressed, and working peoples of the Gulf Coast and the movement desperately need a new course of action based on a comprehensive strategy, and they need it now. The Second Survivors Assembly is being called to develop this strategy and build the operative unity needed to execute it.

Concept

The Survivors Assembly is a constituent body of the mass of the people most affected by the disaster convened to address a crisis of the state (i.e. the government) and its operations. The crisis being addressed by the Survivors Assembly is the failure of the US government to protect and repair the lives of the people and most impacted communities and vital social institutions affected by Katrina and Rita. In addressing this crisis, the Assembly serves as the venue where the Survivors directly exercise their voice and power to decide the platform and program of the Gulf Coast Self-Determination and Reconstruction movement. In the spirit of equity and human rights, the Assembly seeks to give voice to those most affected by the Hurricanes, this includes the Black, Native, Asian and immigrant communities of the region in particular and the whole of the working class of the area in general.

As an Assembly of the people and communities in the Gulf Coast most impacted by Katrina and Rita, the Survivors must be the main participants in the Survivors Assembly. As the Assembly is not mainly a place to give testimonies about personal suffering experienced by individual Survivors, participation is geared to involve Survivors and allies in organized discussions, planning and strategizing that develops a program of action. The main outreach will be to Survivor organizations, especially in the Gulf Coast region and the South, to solidarity committees and organizations throughout the country working directly with Survivors and to allied organizations and individuals working in legal, technical and educational areas related to Survivor issues. Survivors will have voice and vote and others will have occasional voice and not vote.

We are also calling on all of the pre-Hurricane organizations of civil society from the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region (including the Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas coastal regions) to come, participate and make your voice heard. These include trade unions, social clubs, neighborhood associations, women's, youth and LGBT groups, spiritual Organizations (Churches, Mosques, etc.), and community political and cultural organizations. Finally, we are calling on all Katrina and Rita Solidarity Committees to participate. How?

We ask that all Survivors Councils, independent Survivor formations, Gulf Coast civil society organizations, and Solidarity Committee's interested in participating in the Second Survivors Assembly please contact us via email at phrfoc@gmail.com.
To plan the Assembly we are seeking to convene an Assembly Organizing Committee. We ask that each above organizational categories above interested in joining this committee nominate a representative and an alternative backup, depending on your capacity, by March 1st. Send all representative information, including organizational name, individual name, phone number(s), email address(es), and mailing address to kaliakuno@gmail.com. The majority of the meetings will be conducted via conference call, however we will try and convene at least one face-to-face meeting in New Orleans during the spring or early summer. (PHRF is seeking funds to cover the expenses associated with advancing this organizing process, however, organizations may have to cover some or all of their own travel and accommodation expenses.)

Preparation Questions

For general programmatic preparation for the Assembly, we ask that each interested organization submit in writing your answers to the following questions (Please note that we will be asking a series of such questions throughout this process to clearly formulate the agenda of the Assembly. Ideally we would like this process to be mass in character to elicit as much input as possible. Our hope is that the organizing process itself will enable us to come to the Assembly with clear strategic proposals in hand that we can collectively discuss, debate, and decide upon.):

1. What are the three most important objectives of your organization?
2. What do you think the three primary strategic focuses of the overall movement should be? How does your organization's goals and objectives relate to these objectives?
3. What organizational form do you believe is best suited to accomplish these goals? A coalition? A network?
4. What are the keys in your organization's estimation to building programmatic and operative unity within the movement?
5. What do you think are the major internal and external challenges confronting the Movement?
6. How do you think the movement should address these challenges?

For more information call (504) 301-0215.

New SDS to Host Summer Action Camps

by
Josh Russell & Jenna Peters-Golden

This summer SDS will be hosting two Action Camps – one in the Northeast and one in the Midwest. Both will happen in the beginning of August. Dates and locations will be forthcoming, and new information will be constantly updated here:
http://www.newsds.org/wiki/index.php?title=Action_Camps.

The action camps will be a place to build concrete organizing skills, push our strategy and vision, deepen our commitment to and understanding of anti-oppression, and learn from ally organizations we are cultivating relationships with. It will be a place to have face to face bonding time with organizers from different states, and to deepen our understanding of what movement building is.

We are currently assembling our list of trainers and facilitators. We will be giving priority to trainers and facilitators who are SDS and MDS members, before we invite guests from ally organizations and other strategy/training organizations and collectives.

The training and curricula of the Action Camps are listed below. If you are an experienced trainer, facilitator, or discussion leader, and would like to step up and participate, please email Joshua Russell brownietime@gmail.com

SKILLS

+Facilitation
+Media
+Organizing Basics
+Campaign Strategy
+Sustainable Organization/Chapter Building
+Anti-Authoritarian Leadership Development
+Non Violent Direct Action (NVDA)

ANTI-OPPRESSION

+ Anti-Racism 101
+Confronting patriarchy, heterosexism, class, white supremacy
+Anti-Imperialism (what does it mean for SDS)
+Accountability Internally (privilege and interpersonal dynamics, structurally integrating anti-oppression in all levels of SDS)
+Accountability Externally (taking leadership from communities of color, coalition building, humility, how we envision our activism and how we organize on the ground)

VISION AND STRATEGY / INTERNAL SDS

+Vision – who are we as an organization and where are we going?
+Strategy - how are we going to achieve our vision? What strategies is SDS going to use to both win our campaigns, and how does that fit into a broader movement building strategy?
+History - what have we learned from movements past, where are we going? What does the movement look like now? How do we want it to look next year? In 5 years? In 10 years? What kinds of institutions do we need to build to get there? (HINT – MDSers, you would be a big help here!)

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Canada's Unexplained Military Presence in Afghanistan Misinformation Distorts Public Opinion Surrounding the Occupation

by Shane Martinez, Toronto ARA

Since Ottawa sent military support to the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan, Canadian public opinion has generally hovered in a state of confusion, with many people unsure of exactly why troops have been sent there in the first place.

Now, however, that befuddlement is steadily being combined, if not replaced, with a sense of distrust and agitation.

And understandably so. Canadians largely remain perplexed as to why Ottawa has sent troops to a war that many see as unjustified, and even more seem to feel is still unexplained. No solid reasoning has come from Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to elaborate on the very general statements released this far, which have simply declared that Canada is now "committed" to the war. Despite the rising military and civilian death toll overseas, he claims that Canada now has a "better military" from the experience.

Contrasting with the vague statements from the federal government has been an outcry of opposition from within the armed forces. Conveniently disregarding the large number of innocent people killed in the invasion and consequent occupation, military officials have been quick to respond to anti-war sentiments by offering up the suggestion that the public often forgets about "all the good things" which Canadian soldiers contribute to the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

An intensified pro-military advertising campaign in Canada over recent years has been coupled with corporate media refusing to carry out a critical analysis of the political and economic reality of Canadian troops in Afghanistan. This has fostered the conditions for at least partial support of the war by working class Canadians.

But the attempts at winning over public opinion have not been as successful as some political leaders and military brass had hoped. According to recent polls, nearly 50 per cent of Canadians are opposed to the war in Afghanistan. Public demonstrations against the occupation are still strong, with thousands protesting in the streets throughout 37 cities last October 25, in order to spread the truth about the Conservatives' agenda.

When examined, the often ignored numbers don't lie either. Canada entered a war that aroused international popular condemnation, which is now responsible for the deaths of between 20,000 and 49,600 Afghanis, according to Jonathan Steele of *The Guardian*. Canada's participation in Afghanistan provides essential logistical suport to the simultaneous US war in Iraq. Canada's death count in the Afghan "theater of operations" is now at 45 troops, with an additional 150+ injured. In analyzing the number of dead, the math paints a dreary picture that is difficult to understand. Great Britain, which currently has 4,700 soldiers serving in Afghanistan, has had fewer troops killed than Canada, which has fewer than half the number of British soldiers stationed there. Meaning that Canada's casualty rate is double that of the British. Yet these realities do not penetrate Canadian media.

Further displaying the success of wartime propaganda at work, an Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of CanWest News Service this past September showed that of just over 1,000 Canadians questioned, 80 per cent actually believe that Canadian forces are conducting a "vital humanitarian mission" in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, the truth is far different from this common misconception of the Canadian military as being one of peacekeepers eager to reconstruct war-torn communities.

Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan currently have approximately 90 per cent of their work consisting of combat missions, and only 10 per cent allocated to humanitarian projects – a scandalous injustice when it is considered that 1.5 million people in Afghanistan are suffering from imminent starvation. Canada's participation in this US-instigated war helps maintain the annual deaths of 268,000 Afghani children under the age of five who pass away from easily treatable diseases such as diarrhea and pulmonary conditions.

Since Canadian forces arrived in the region in late 2001 (and actively engaged in on-ground missions beginning in early 2002), the US government has been able to utilize more of its military resources in the invasion and occupation of Iraq. Mainstream press in Canada has been largely silent on this matter. There was an equal lack of publication on the confirmation from Ottawa in April, 2003 that over 50 Canadians were actually fighting in Iraq, placed there via exchange programs with the "allied" forces.

Canadians are faced with the challenge of choosing between blind nationalism and a critical perspective on the economic realities underlying the occupation of Afghanistan, through which Canada has enrolled itself as a military junior partner of the US global empire. As the body count of both Afghanis and Canadians grows higher, the facts are becoming clearer as to the true intentions behind the war, and the necessary illusions that cloak them.

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PART's PERSPECTIVE:

Everywhere is War

by
Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)

The words of Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, popularized by Bob Marley, ring truer today than ever:

"Until the philosophy which holds one race superior and another inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned, everywhere is war. And until there are no longer first-class and second-class citizens of any nation, until the color of a man's skin is of no more significance than the color of his eyes, and until the basic human rights are equally guaranteed to all without regard to race, there is war. And until that day, the dream of lasting peace, world citizenship, rule of international morality, will remain but a fleeting illusion to be pursued, but never attained... now everywhere is war."

Ethiopia itself is now engaged on behalf of US interests in a proxy war in Somalia, one of a number of such proxy wars in Africa. Democrats are falling all over themselves to score cheap political points about 'ending' the war in Iraq while agreeing to spend tens of billions of dollars, off-budget, for expanding that war. The US has begun planning for a space-based weapons race with China, has dragged Canada and other NATO countries into the war in Afghanistan, has threatened war on Iran, and has put active duty military forces into Colombia, the Philippines and elsewhere around the globe.

What is less obvious to some is that this permanent state of war exists inside the current border of the U.S. empire-state as well. Because capitalist-colonialism requires constant war, both class war and colonial war. Empire is based on conquest of land and people, and requires the constant application of force to maintain that conquest. Capitalism is based on the ongoing extraction of wealth from working people, and that too, requires the constant application of force to sustain.

The theft of native land is not an artifact of the dead past, but an ongoing reality of the present day, whether in Mohawk country, Florida, Hawaii, Alaska or occupied northern Mexico. When Minutemen whine about the Mexicano/indigenous "reconquista" of California and the US southwest, they are confusing "conquest" with the on-going and irrepressible resistance of indigenous people to half a millennium of colonialism, whether by Spain or the U.S. It is impossible to understand the US social, political and economic order without recognizing that is, and always has been, a settler colonial empire. Only when we begin to understand that constant and ongoing state of war will we be able to end it.

There are certain key factors of the social and political structure of the US empire which can only be understood in the context of settler colonialism. For example, certain "democratic" aspects of US society are predicated in mass participation by wide sectors of the settler European population in the taking and holding of land, and the enslavement of other workers. Insofar as "white" people can be trusted with weapons to the extent that they use them to defend and extend the empire, the US is the most heavily armed society, individually and collectively, on the planet. To the extent that oppressed people can be diverted into criminality and a "war of all against all," and away from collective struggle for liberation, guns are quite widespread among the oppressed as well. This is the material basis for the widespread and growing privatization of all aspects of the US Empire, from the mercenaries in Iraq (and New Orleans) to the vending of LAPD services to the highest bidder (such as the donations from tobacco companies to prioritize smuggling of cigarettes for investigation) and the use of private security forces in LA's gentrification zones. This reality is also reflected in the coordinated use of ICE and the Border Patrol, private enterprise detention camps, the federalization of local police forces, and the auxiliary and extra-legal efforts of racist, violence-prone vigilantes to further anti-Mexican and anti-immigrant hysteria and repression.

On May 1, 1886, police in Chicago carried out a premeditated attack and massacre of workers striking, in an anarchist-built movement, for the 8-hour day and a better world. This led to the arrest of eight anarchist labor leaders, and the execution of four, on murder and conspiracy charges in the death of several cops killed by a bomb. On May 1, 2007, eight Black elders, former members and associates of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, are locked up on 35-year-old charges, based on torture, of murder and conspiracy in the killing of a San Francisco police officer. And on that same day, Los Angeles police, in a premeditated attack, brutalized and dispersed a peaceful May Day rally of tens of thousands of mainly immigrant workers and families.

What took place on May Day in L.A. was police provocation and police violence. The police spent almost an hour charging at, running motorcycles at, and prodding at people with their batons trying to provoke a response and incident. They also clearly targeted the media in their violence. They were in combat mode, heavy-duty riot gear, and carrying out military type maneuvers from early on, like sharks circling, because they "smelled blood" from the moment the turnout proved to be so much smaller than last year. LAPD has been frustrated for over a year, since last March 25. The protests then were so massive, that the police were so totally outnumbered as to be utterly irrelevant and impotent to contain or even harass people on either March 25 last year or at either demo last May Day. What's more, people had a sense of their own power, and a new fearlessness. This was a very dangerous development for the Empire, which depends heavily on the coerced "consent" of oppressed and exploited people whose fear convinces them that revolution would be too costly or doomed to failure, and who seek instead to cut the best deal they can with the Empire. The empire has spent the ensuing year trying to re-instill that fear through raids by ICE and through unleashing vigilante violence and a city-by-city reaction promoting police involvement in immigration enforcement. The LAPD actions on May 1 fall into that context.

Although Chief Bratton is now making noises about how some actions were "inappropriate," it's clear from what happened that a high level command decision had been made in advance to attack and shut down the rally as soon as it was clear that turnout, though substantial, would not be overwhelming. From the start, the police refusal to permit the entire march route meant that demonstrators were divided and stretched out up and down Vermont having to walk along the sidewalks. Even along the main permitted march route, the whole street was not shut down, so that cars were turning and crossing along and across the march route and the marchers had to stop for lights, etc. This prevented the marchers from building any sense of massiveness and domination of the streets, or of creating a community of solidarity and resistance among the totality of marchers and other participants. Thus the police were able to hem people in as we gathered in and around MacArthur Park.

They immediately began to carry out their feints and run their wedges, skirmish lines and encirclement tactics, trying to intimidate and aggravate people. They sought to establish the idea that the streets belong to the police by virtue of their firepower and their military tactics. Their political intent was to terrorize the community at large and the politically active immigrant sector in particular. In the wake of last May 1, they wanted to make people think twice about going into the streets or even going to rallies. Their intent was to try to re-establish fear and a sense of weakness or vulnerability among people becoming conscious of their own strength. These were psychological operations, carried out by a department that has always had close ties to military intelligence and the CIA.

We need to counter the narrative that "a few trouble-makers" were the source or cause of the violence. Militarized, political police -- an occupying army trying to reassert its authority over both the terrain and the people -- were the source of the violence. This will also counter the fall-back Bratton position that it was few "bad apples" or overzealous cops "over-reacting" to being hit by "rabble throwing things" who marred an otherwise proper and justified police action.

It's time for a counter-offensive, using this blatant exposure of the police state to call into question both Villaraigosa's attempt to build up the police forces in LA to protect gentrification, and Bratton's intention to get ratified for another 5 year term to "complete his unfinished business." Testimonies of people who were assaulted by cops, provoked or ridden up on with motorcycles and jabbed with billy-clubs, the footage of cops attacking, beating and kicking media people, needs to be assembled and presented to the public, to the
City Council, etc. This can also set a context for community-based organizing for self-defense.

The contrast between last year -- when the massive turnout disciplined itself happily and asserted its strength and power and collective solidarity and will without incident or injury -- and this year, -- when the police provoked and abused people and then carried out both targeted and indiscriminate violence -- should make clear to all that the coercive powers of the police are the problem, not a solution.

For far too long, the imperial war on the people has been one-sided. But as the Bush administration has come to rely increasingly on militarization and privatization, the beginnings of a new popular offensive are taking shape. The inability of the US empire to impose its will militarily on the people of Iraq or Afghanistan has shaken the will and unanimity of the ruling elite, threatened the morale and capacity of US military forces, and inspired people all over the world to redouble their resistance to the Empire.

For the first time since COINTELPRO and the promotion of reactionary Islam by the imperialists in the 1970s, imperialism is once again on a strategic defensive globally and potentially inside the continental borders of the empire. This is why the state has resurrected the discredited case against the SF 8, trying to use it to legitimize torture within the colonial criminal justice system just as it has internationally with Guantanamo and secret renditions. By linking the defense of political prisoners like the Eight and Mumia, with defense of immigrants and detainees and of GI resisters, we can begin to lay the basis for a fight-back that will strip the empire once and for all of its air of invincibility. We can overcome the defeatism that has plagued the popular movements since the defeats of the 1970s and 1980s. As the anti-colonial struggles of indigenous, African and other people of color begin to reassert themselves by any means necessary, they will once again intensify the contradictions and class struggle inside the settler population. Resistance is fertile!

Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

TURNING THE TIDE

The People United Will Never be Defeated!

Volume 20 Number 4*ISSN 1082-6491*July-Aug. 2007

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20th anniversary year of ARA-LA/PART
20th year of publication of Turning the Tide
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Joint Statement from the San Francisco Eight

We, the San Francisco 8, would like to send this joint statement extending our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all our friends and supporters. As many of you know, this COINTELPRO persecution has been on-going for nearly 36 years. However, in the last few years, in accord with the implementation of the Patriot Act, state and federal authorities initiated plans to stifle political dissent, particularly targeting young activists. Similarly, COINTELPRO's objective was to "… expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the activities of Black nationalist, hate type organizations and groupings, their leadership, spokesmen, membership, and supporters, and to counter their propensity for violence and civil disorder …" (COINTELPRO memo of August 25, 1967).

The FBI not only targeted the Black Panther Party, but according to this COINTELPRO memo: "Intensified attention under this program should be afforded to the activities of such groups as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Revolutionary Action Movement, the Deacons for Defense and Justice, Congress of Racial Equality, and the Nation of Islam. Particular emphasis should be given to extremists who direct the activities and policies of revolutionary or militant groups such as Stokely Carmichael, H. "Rap" Brown, Elijah Muhammad, and Maxwell Stanford." By March 4, 1968, COINTELPRO was in full operation, leading to directing its full attention to the Black Panther Party to prohibit the BPP from developing durable long-term political and organizational relationships with various segments of the Black community.

This case represents the continuation of that COINTELPRO objective, to further indicate how the government will persecute today's activists. The government is seeking to rewrite the history of struggle as exemplified by the BPP, venomously trying to define that legacy of struggle as a "terrorist" movement.

We vehemently reject that labeling, as the government attempts to characterize the San Francisco 8 as "terrorists," "criminals," and "wanton killers." They will never say the SF8 were political activists and progressive civil/human rights organizers. They will never say they sought to relieve the community of all forms of state sponsored terrorism that is often found in Black, Asian and Latino communities today. They will never admit to the unconstitutional practices of the FBI COINTELPRO activities, despite the 1974 Senate Church Committee findings condemning those practices. Furthermore, they will never seek to establish remedies for those who are victims of the illegal FBI and local police actions under COINTELPRO, and now under the Patriot Act, if we don't demand they do so.

It is with this understanding the SF8 are issuing this joint statement, calling for friends and supporters to organize a national determination to ensure our victory. Ours will be a victory against fear and state terrorism; it will be a defeat against state torture tactics, threats and coercion.

This case and our call for action will teach today's activists what to expect from the state in its efforts to suppress dissent and protest of government repression. Indeed, this task will forward a broader understanding of what happened in the Movement of the 60s and 70s, and how COINTELPRO disrupted and destroyed the most viable Black political party that emerged out of the civil rights movement. Ultimately, what is here proposed will tell of a youth movement and how the government sought to undermine and destroy it. The proposal will expose how the government seeks to retaliate because those youth (who are now Elders) did in fact challenge the system of racist oppression. They not only challenged oppressive conditions in our collective communities, but also worked to support all oppressed peoples fighting against colonialism and imperialism at that time.

This case evolves out of a history of political struggle in this country, and it is our duty to fulfill that mission by expressing what happened then, and COINTELPRO's negative impact on today's social movements. Therefore, while we engage in a legal battle in the courtroom, it is imperative we urge our friends and supporters to extend the political front in the various communities. We must reach out to the various street organizations and youth groups, the animal and earth liberation groups, women's rights and LGBT forums, the immigration rights struggles, and the many ethnic communities who are struggling for a better life in this country.

Hence, the course of the overall struggle to win the release of the San Francisco 8 requires a broad political determination, reaching beyond the important legal issues of the case. For example, the question of torture, COINTELPRO, and matters of reconciliation are essential to this case. Therefore, a successful national campaign in support of the SF8 requires friends and supporters to achieve the following objectives:

1. Anti-Torture Legislation:

In 1909, the Niagara Movement evolved into the NAACP led by W.E.B. Dubois. The principal platform of the NAACP at that time was a struggle to forge an anti-lynching movement. Today, torture in its many forms has become a scourge in America: there is the inhumane use of restraint chairs in jails and prisons, an especially despicable device reminiscent of medieval torture mechanisms; there has been an increase in use of the taser as a weapon to induce confessions and control prisoners, resulting in many deaths, another inhumane torture device. In the case of the SF8, law enforcement officers employed similar torture techniques, including those used in Vietnam and in Abu Ghraib by U.S. military personnel. The use of torture permeates all facets of the so-called "criminal justice system."

Obviously, like the old anti-lynching platform of the NAACP, the San Francisco 8 call for a national campaign demanding anti-torture legislation on local levels (city councils and state legislatures). The SF8 hold that any form of interrogation that employs the use of water boarding, simulated drowning techniques, cattle prods, tasers, restraint chairs, physical beatings, sensory and sleep deprivation, and psychological coercion must be deemed inhumane and criminal. Therefore, the San Francisco 8 call for all progressive and peace loving people to join in a national campaign on city, state and congressional levels for proclamations and legislation outlawing all forms of torture.

2. Reopen COINTELPRO Hearings:

It is well known that the FBI targeted the Black Panther Party for annihilation under the secret counter-intelligence program (COINTELPRO). The FBI COINTELPRO effort resulted in the assassination, criminalization, vilification, and the splitting of the BPP leading to its destruction, with many BPP members today languishing in prisons. The FBI COINTELPRO actions worked in alliance with police departments across the country, and today, the Patriot Act has legalized much of what were illegal COINTELPRO practices. In 1974, the Senate Church Committee investigating the illegal FBI COINTELPRO activities declared such practices unconstitutional. However, the Senate Church Committee failed to create remedies for those who suffered from the unconstitutional practices of the FBI and police departments.

Subject to that reality, the San Francisco 8 hereby call for a national movement for the reopening of COINTELPRO hearings. We, the SF8, urge friends and supporters to phone/fax/write to John Conyers, Chair of the Judiciary Committee in Congress, and appeal for him to conduct public hearings on why victims of COINTELPRO languish in prison over 30 years after it was declared unconstitutional. We, the SF8, ask friends and supporters to contact your congressional representative, Congressional Black Caucus members and other elected officials urging them to enable John Conyers to reopen COINTELPRO hearings.

3. Truth and Reconciliation Commission:

At the conclusion of hostilities in the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa, many progressive forces took a path to resolve potential antagonisms subject to racial, socioeconomic and political strife during the decades of apartheid. That path led to the creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, principally led by the Honorable Bishop Desmond Tutu.

In the United States, people of Afrikan descent suffered the trauma of chattel slavery, Black Codes, Jim Crow segregation laws, political repression and state terrorism under the auspices of COINTELPRO. However, unlike South Africa, at no time has there been a national determination to resolve political, social or economic antagonisms born out of centuries/decades of racial strife. In recent years, as a result of the reparations movement, some corporations, cities and states have issued apologies for having been involved in the Atlantic slave trade. Despite these apologies, the systemic inequities prevail with devastating consequences on every vestige of life confronting the majority of people of Afrikan descent in America.

The San Francisco 8 understand that these historic dynamics perpetuate social-cultural determinants that inhibit the necessary psychological inducements towards self-reliance and self-determination. Therefore, we are calling for progressive peoples to open dialogue and begin the process towards organizing a national Truth and Reconciliation Commission to address these inequities. We believe such a Commission could serve as a catalyst to forge substantial resolutions to heal America's racial trauma.

In conclusion, it is these three areas of concern we jointly agree will empower a national campaign to virtually expose the negative impact of both COINTELPRO and the Patriot Act. We call for all progressive peoples in support of the San Francisco 8 and all U.S. political prisoners to find the means to organize committees and coalitions to implement this proposal on local and national levels.

Again, we, the San Francisco 8, extend our heartfelt appreciation for your solidarity and support. Let us, together, build a sustainable and durable initiative that redresses civil and human rights violations, as we organize to win the freedom of the San Francisco 8.

Free All U.S. Political Prisoners!
--The San Francisco 8

Profiles & Contact Information of the San Francisco 8 Write to them!

Herman Bell, 59, of Mississippi, a political prisoner since 1973. Cointelpro's "pattern of manipulation and lies, continuing into the present, indicates something more than the ordinary corruption and racism of everyday law enforcement. It can be understood only in terms of the power of the political movement that [we] were part of, and the intensity of the government's efforts to destroy that movement and to disillusion and intimidate future generations of young activists." Write to him - 2318931, 850 Bryant Street, San Francisco CA 94103.

Ray Boudreaux, 64, of Altadena. "Actually for the last 25 years I've lived a pretty peaceful and quiet life. My politics are still the same. It's just that I'm not active. People come to me sometimes as a peace-maker. And all of that has to do with all of my experience." Write to him - 2301300, 850 Bryant Street, San Francisco CA 94103.

Richard Brown, 65, of San Francisco. "For the past six years I have been a Community Court Judge Arbitrator working with the San Francisco District Attorney's office. We place a lot of emphasis on restorative justice, so most of the community service done will be done in our own community where the offender can give back to the community." Write to him - 2300819, 850 Bryant Street, San Francisco CA 94103.

Henry W. (Hank) Jones, 70, of Altadena. "I [have lived] under the constant threat of another ... incarceration. In essence I have been robbed of peace of mind, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I am therefore compelled to resist these tactics and inform the public of my recent experience, feeling that something similar could happen to anyone given the climate of fear, paranoia, and abuse of authority that is rampant in our country today." Write to him - 2301301, 425 Seventh St, San Francisco CA 94103.

Jalil Muntaqim (Anthony Bottom), 55, of San Francisco, a political prisoner in New York since 1978. "The United States does not recognize the existence of political prisoners. To do so would give credence to the fact of the level of repression and oppression, and have to recognize the fact that people resist racist oppression in the United States, and therefore, legitimize the existence of not only the individuals who are incarcerated or have been captured, but also legitimize those movements of which they are a part." Write to him - 2311826, 850 Bryant Street, San Francisco CA 94103.

Richard O'Neal, 58, has worked for the City of San Francisco for 25 years, most recently at the Southeast Community Center in Bay View. "People who work there said they were stunned by his arrest, recalling him as a kind and gentle man who always had a smile on his face and would stay late to fix lights or other things." (SF Chronicle) The dean of the campus noted, "He is a trusted employee who would do anything to help us...He would take the shirt off his back to try to help you." Richard has been charged with "conspiracy." 58, has worked for the City of San Francisco for 25 years, most recently at the Southeast Community Center in Bay View. "People who work there said they were stunned by his arrest, recalling him as a kind and gentle man who always had a smile on his face and would stay late to fix lights or other things." (SF Chronicle) The dean of the campus noted, "He is a trusted employee who would do anything to help us...He would take the shirt off his back to try to help you." Richard has been charged with "conspiracy." Write to him - 2300818, 850 Bryant Street, San Francisco CA 94103.

Harold Taylor, 58, of Panama City. "In 1971, two brothers and I were set up by the FBI. We didn't learn about COINTELPRO until years later. In 1973 I was arrested in New Orleans and was beaten and tortured for several days. in 2003 the detectives that were responsible for my torture came to my house to try and question me. I have not been the same since." Write to him - 2305584, 850 Bryant Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Francisco Torres, 58, of New York City. Cisco born in Puerto Rico and raised in this country. He is a Vietnam Veteran who fought for the grievances of Black and Latino soldiers upon his return to the states. A fomer Black Panther, he has been a community activist since his discharge from the military in 1969. Write to him - 2307534, 850 Bryant Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Please support these brothers by sending a donation. Make checks payable to CDHR/Agape and mail to the address below or donate on line:

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Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CDHR)
PO Box 90221
Pasadena, CA 91109
(415) 226-1120
FreetheSF8@riseup.net

To join the L.A. area campaign to Free the Eight and all political prisoners, based on self-determination and revolutionary solidarity, contact:

Unity Mission to Free the SF8
PO Box 8297
Los Angeles CA 90008

Black Community tells Minutemen to Go Home

by Leslie Radford
leslie@radiojustice.net

More than 300 Crenshaw District residents joined 200 migrant rights' supporters and linked arms to keep the minutemen out of Leimert Park, in the heart of Black Los Angeleson June 24. Anti-minutemen protestors, called out by the Mayday Defense Committee and Unión del Barrio, linked arms across the 43rd Place entrance to Leimert Park three lines deep to defend the park against the minutemen. Across the street, "Choose Black America," a front group for the anti-immigrant march sponsors, Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), and Save Our State, a minuteman spin-off, fretted and stewed. The LAPD, obviously sensing the determination of the people and reeling from the public outcry against their violence in MacArthur Park last month, kept the groups apart, eventually moving cruisers in front of the entrance to prevent a minuteman incursion, and refused the minuteman permission to enter the park.

By 1:00 p.m. CBA had mustered its marchers and stepped onto the street at Crenshaw and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevards to begin their parade down this major artery through the historically African-American neighborhood to Leimert Park, the public platform for Los Angles Black voices and the center of Black Los Angeles culture. They put together a showing of about 85, 65 African-Americans, twenty white minutemen, and one or two Mexican-Americans. Save Our State has undergone serious internal upheavals and splits because of its support of former self-proclaimed homeless leader Ted Hayes, a pro-police Black republican who now chairs CBA.

As the minutemen assembled on the southwest corner, the counter-protestors, on the southeast corner, shouted at them, 'Minutemen, KKK, racists out of South LA!' The LAPD allowed the swelling crowd of counter-protestors, a mixed Brown, Black, and white group led down Crenshaw by the Black Riders Liberation Party, to spill into the street as they marched fifteen feet away from CBA. Counter-demonstrators proclaimed their support for a community celebration of Juneteenth (anniversary of Black Texans learning of the Emancipation Proclamation) and carried a banner supporting "Reparations! Legalization! Stiop the War!" CBA and the minuteman rode and walked beside a flatbed float representing a slavers' ship decked out with signs calling for reparations. CBA supporters held signs for another FAIR front group, NumbersUSA. The white minutemen brought up the rear, saying nothing as the group up front chanted, 'Choose--choose--choose Black America.' They were drowned out, even across the street, by the counterprotestors calling out 'Asesinos!' and 'Down with the Klan, down with the minutemen.'

One Black activist explained, 'They're trying to separate and divide. Ted Hayes is brainwashed. The minutemen will turn their back on him when they're finished with him.' Residents along the march route were heard complaining that the Klan had shut down the buses on Crenshaw, as they drifted off to find alternate routes.

As we reached the park, the cops announced that we were to be penned on the east side of the park.The anger had mounted as we marched, and the call went out when we found ourselves between the park and the minutemen: don't let them in the park. The first arrivals took international flags into the park and stood at the gates, but the police had stopped CBA and the minutemen on the west side of the Crenshaw. The

counter-protestors repositioned themselves across the east sidewalk entrance between the cop cruisers . People from the community, grandmotherly types, young men, shop owners, employees, with quiet and clear fierceness, were pouring through the park and coming north across 43rd Street to the sidewalk . Then the call was 'lock down!' Three lines of people joined arms across the thirty-foot open space between the cop cars at the entrance, discussed how to handle police batons, and determined that the minutemen would not cross. The Aztec danzantes protected the people with ritual dances and guarded the southeast corner of 43rd Street and Crenshaw. The Black Riders alternated between patrolling the other entrances to the park and standing at the front of the defense line. A participant murmured, 'They're using Black Nationalism. I didn't know Black Nationalism sided with the Klan.' Then the triumphant cry: 'Whose streets? Our streets! People united will never be divided!' The police stretched their yellow tape around the CBA and the minutemen, penning them in across the street, and told them that they wouldn't be going into the park today. The counterprotestors roared, 'Leimert, MacArthur, New Orleans: Smash the racist war machine!' and Black and Brown allies called out, 'We are not the minority--we are the majority!'

At 3:00, the cops forced the CBA and SOS onto the west sidewalk, surrounded them, and offered them the choice of leaving or arrest. Hayes and five of his followers stepped into the street in a last-ditch, staged arrest so Hayes, as one observer put it, would 'earn his pay.' And the media ran to film Hayes being escorted into a police van. They were taken to a substation and released.

In a protest in some ways reminiscent of Baldwin Park's first encounter with the minutemen, the Leimert Park defenders had built community unity, and turned hate and divisiveness out of their public space.

PART's PERSPECTIVE:

WHY DO WE HAVE NO TEETH? HOW CAN WE GET SOME?

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***

Let's look at three recent setbacks or defeats for popular forces, that some (who should know better) professed to be shocked by.

1) Congress, controlled by the "opposition" Democrats, approved -- with no strings attached, no timetable for withdrawal, and no "quid pro quo" (nothing in return from Bush for caving in) -- a massive funding bill for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The main "benchmark" mentioned was Iraqi agreement to privatization (and thus US control) of their oil resources.

2) Democrats in California, in a party-dictated vote, approved a bill calling for the construction more than 50,000 more prison "beds" – read, cages – at both the state prison and county jail level. Again, no debate, no discussion, no evident "deal," not a single dissenting vote in the entire Assembly, and only a handful of state senators who dared to vote 'no.' This will not reduced overcrowding, as alleged. It will simply add 50,000+ prisoners to the state's massive system of incarceration (meaning there will be more arrests in every jurisdiction to fill the "beds").

3) The Los Angeles Police Commission unanimously approved an unprecedented second 5-year term for LAPD Chief William Bratton despite the egregious violation of human rights by the LAPD only weeks before. (The cops had, in premeditated fashion, attacked a peaceful immigrant workers' rights May Day rally, firing "less-lethal" weapons at families, elders, children, and journalists covering the event.) Not to mention Bratton's policy of sweeps of the homeless and plans for a major expansion of the LAPD. Just as more cells means more prisoners, more cops = more deaths.

The list could go on, and need not be particular to the city of Los Angeles, the state of California, or the U.S. government. But these three recent cases will serve to indicate the point. Even as a defensive movement, responding to the policy initiatives of the state and the right, we are toothless. At least on a legislative level, nobody fears our bite.

Even on a national level, the state digested the impact of the enormous outpouring of immigrant protesters last year. The agenda being set for "comprehensive immigration reform" is basically being driven by George Bush, and forces to his right, based around even more punitive and repressive "border enforcement" and workplace raids, business-friendly immigration visas and "guest worker" provisions. Its restrictive and expensive "path to legalization" will leave many without documents. If the bill passes, it will be Bush's victory. If it is defeated, it will be the anti-immigrant, anti-Mexican right, and not the pro-immigrant groups, that will have sunk it.

What accounts for this toothlessness? How can we overcome it?

Strategically, the empire is deathly afraid of the people it exploits, oppresses and colonizes, whether inside or outside the current borders. But tactically, it has no fear of dealing with us by enacting further militarization, further criminalization, further repression.

WHY DO WE HAVE NO TEETH?

First of all, we have no sense of our own strength. We are always in defensive posture, seeking to limit givebacks, takeaways and cuts by going hat in hand to our "friends" in the Democratic Party. Is it finally clear that we have no significant friends on either side of the aisle, and whoever controls the state house or the White House? We have been cowed by the strength, wealth and power of the system. In fact, the rulers are quite clear that all the system's wealth comes from the people and land it exploits, and that all their ruling power comes from the people they colonize and dominate. That's people around the world, but it includes us. Yet we have no sense of our own collective strength and creative power.

Second, we are not even fighting yesterday's battles or trying to win the last war. We have not studied or learned the lessons of previous generations of struggle, what we were able to win when there was a global revolutionary offensive, and how we lost when the Empire was able to exploit our weaknesses and go on a strategic counter-offensive.

Thus, those weaknesses – racism, sexism, elitism, dogmatism, sectarianism, internalized oppression, neo-colonialism – continue to plague and divide us.

Third, we in the U.S. who seek to end this system of exploitation and colonialism have little or no fighting capacity. Every other significant social force – the state, the right, the corporations, the criminal element ranging from the mafia to the street organizations, the fundamentalists whether Christian, Jewish or Islamist – is armed. Yet the left persists in a self-destructive pacifism, based on the illusion that potential control of the imperial state lies within its grasp if it only amasses an electoral majority.

HOW CAN WE GET SOME TEETH?

We need to recognize that the Empire is in crisis and overextended politically, economically and militarily. The repressive measures they are taking now are based on their understanding of their extreme vulnerability. Although globalization has extended the Empire, allowing it to carry out projects such as gentrification in many domestic locales, it has also heightened and intensified its contradictions.

The US military, as well-endowed as the rest of the world's armed forces combined, has been taxed beyond its capacity trying to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan. Its 137 bases stretch it thin. Thirty-five percent of the world's resources, 25% of its prisoners, and 66% of its savings are required to sustain the unsustainable American Way of Life. What if serious revolutionary struggle erupts in Mexico? We must unify in solidarity with the global resistance of colonized people, including inside US borders.

Second, we need to an assertive, proactive strategy for the world we want to build and the way we want to live, none of which could or will be granted by the powers-that-be because it presupposes their extinction. We must recognize there is an irreconcilable contradiction between a future for our children and the planetary eco-system and the continued rule of imperialism, colonialism and white supremacy.

We must cast off the illusions that bind us to our exploiters and oppressors, whether through white supremacy or neo-colonialism. The left will not take over and run the Empire. Liberation for all will only come through decolonization.

Finally, we need to begin to develop the ability to defend our communities and to make the Empire pay a price for its attacks. This does not mean to stop public organizing, community-building, education or agitation. But it means we need to make efforts to build beyond the eyes and ears of the state. It means we need to develop intelligence gathering capabilities about the strategies, tactics, strengths and weaknesses of the state, the corporations, and the right.

The horizontal rebelliousness of Latin America can be instructive in this regard. But we need to find ways to erode the armed power bases of the state, whether among the poverty-draft military, the armed anti-statist right, or the unconscious criminal element of colonized communities and open the possibility of turning those guns around. And that will take a nucleus of our own to attract and incorporate them to.

A Personal Message from the Editor, Michael Novick

As I was working on this issue of ***Turning the Tide***, and preparing to go to the US Social Forum in Atlanta, I was struck with a painful attack of shingles. It's the adult onset of the virus that causes chicken pox. My doc told me it often strikes when you're run-down or over-stressed, and she prescribed rest, pain pills and an anti-viral.

In retrospect, it seems I've had a number of attacks over the years, undiagnosed because the sharp nerve pains weren't accompanied by the feverish rash I have this time. I'm at risk for what's called post-herpetic neuropathy, where residual pain along the damaged nerves in my back would continue after the rash heals. This forces me to make some decisions about how to reduce the level of stress in my life.

In addition to ARA and ***Turning the Tide***, I have a full-time job as a schoolteacher, where I was also elected as union rep for my school and have served on several committees and the House of Reps of the teachers union. I am involved at Pacifica radio station KPFK, where I chair the elected Program Council and volunteered to edit a station folio.

I work on the Jericho Amnesty Coalition to Free All Political Prisoners, which recently helped launched the Unity Mission to Free the Eight. I moderate the e-list "Stop Police Abuse Now!" I do material aid and solidarity work with the Black Riders Liberation Party.

I also happen to be 60 years old, married, with two grandkids and a third on the way.

Something had to give and it was me. It's clear I can't continue as I have been. I'll be cutting back in every area. ***TTT*** may go back to quarterly publication. I need to get more people involved in what has been a one-man band.

I hope readers, particularly the prisoners for whom above all ***TTT*** has been kept afloat all these years will understand the necessity of these adjustments.

Peace, and Power to the People!
–Michael Novick

Hip-Hop Owes Women An Apology

By Chuck "Jigsaw" Creekmur

APOLOGY:

a·pol·o·gy (_-p_l'_-j_) pronunciation

1. An acknowledgment expressing regret or asking pardon for a fault or offense.

An apology can mean so many different things for people, both the giver and recipient(s).

So, I've been thinking a bit.

I believe it's high time that Hip-Hop offered an apology to its women, in particular the females of color.

Here we are in the year 2007, a pivotal year for our culture. Music sales are down while criticism of Hip-Hop is up. The culture is under attack, at a creative crossroads and it appears people are acting crazier every step of the way. We have outright, bold misogyny and rampant sexism in our Hip-Hop culture as if it were indigenous to our people. We have our music, which can barely find a commercially viable female rapper. Meanwhile, a host of talented female emcees cannot get a fair shake even in the underground. We've watched the culture transform from one that was inclusive of WOMEN to one that resembles a gang initiation just to attend the party.

Now consider the parallels in society; because Hip-Hop is nothing but a microcosm of a bigger picture. Congress, one of the U.S. Government's celestial bodies, seeks to apologize for slavery (not without opposition). After 140 years after the Civil War, the government body is considering offering a national apology to African Americans for the racial catastrophe that enslaved millions of Africans and institutionalized racism into our societal fabric. Now, slavery not only oppressed a class of people, but it economically raised another's class and their businesses, aspirations and dreams.

With rap, you have the men - typically Black men - who are using this art for economic gain and then you have the women - typically African American women or women of color who are relegated to the most base role in the culture. I think it's for men this collective apology could mark the beginning of a healing with women and as importantly, themselves. For women, this collective apology could mark the beginning of the mending relations with its men and, most importantly, themselves.

Let's be frank. The masses of people - male and female - hunger for more sustenance from its Hip-Hop.

Now, think about this situation in terms of food.

When you eat your typical fast food for an extended period of time, you experience a number of adverse affects. Initially, you might simply gain weight, something remedied with exercise and change in dietary habits. However, if you continue to ingest the bad food, you will begin to suffer ailments that are much more difficult to fix. (Think high cholesterol, obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease.)

I view the music we consume in a similar way. If you listen to music that is always violent, persistently misogynist, you could assume the negativity as your own and over time, it could become a shaper of your perspective. These images are conditioning the way boys see women and the way girls see what they will become. It's a self-fulfilling prophecy that writes and re-writes itself in a vicious cycle. The blatantly, degenerate music is the food we masses feed our minds in every medium that means anything - online, television, musically and print.

I understand that there will be people that will inevitably disagree with my thoughts and even blast the mere thought of an apology. Hip-Hop is unapologetic by nature. Hip-Hop is a victim itself in many ways, if you know of its origins in the Bronx of the 80's. It was considered Hell on Earth. So, in theory, one's environment could be the "fast food" and harsh urban terrain never apologizes. But, playing victim is played out. At some point, mentally we have to raise up and move forward. Who can disagree with that?

An apology is also an admission of guilt, wrongdoing, regret and if properly executed, suggests strongly that the apology marks a imminent change in behavior.

Remember the forced apology when you were a child? You didn't want to do it and furthermore you probably didn't know why you were saying sorry. You just did it and it really didn't mark any sustained change in habit. From that point of view, it's probably too soon to expect an apology from Hip-Hop, much less a change in behavior. The change is the key...

Take Common as an example of a person that hasn't made any recent apologies to women. He's done something better, he's evolved as a man and a human being. On his first album, Can I Borrow A Dollar, he penned a song called "Heidi Hoe," that was an abrasive (and clever) dismantling of the "scallywag." I loved that song too. But, what I can appreciate about Common is he didn't feel compelled to stay there in his reality or his music (regardless of what public demands were). He would go on to write songs like "A Song For Assata" and "Come Close," among others that examine the wide range of experiences men have with women.

So, while the Chicago MC didn't necessarily apologize (or need to), the end result is the same. He kept making music and behaved in a manner than was consistent with evolution, the aftermath of any sincere apology. He simply altered his approach. Jay-Z, Nas, T.I. and others like Ludacris have been liberated from their former selves and still managed to stay relevant and successful.

Over the past 20 or so years, Hip-Hop has devolved from a revolutionary form of art that saw the rise of street intellectuals, rappers erasing racism and others proactive behavior to one that caters to the very base in humans. I see women all over Hip-Hop, but I still miss them.

Salt-N-Pepa, Queen Latifah, MC Lyte, Monie Love, Lauryn Hill, Rah Digga, Jean Grae and a plethora of others have offered their version of real womanhood. They were not a byproduct of a male rapper's negative experience with a few bad apples. In many ways, these femcees' messages balanced the men that were often talking about a "certain type of female." But "The B***h" has now become the prototype for all women in Hip-Hop and mostly are regarded as hoes or some other culturally necessary sex object. Necessary un-desirables, like the slaves.

Enslaved people - even after abolition - were still only confined to the menial jobs and not offered the breadth of opportunity afforded their counterparts. So, yesterday's Salt-N-Pepa's, Sweet-T's and JJ Fad's are today's video vixen and eye candy for your favorite rapper dude.
I'd personally appreciate that apology from the U.S. Government on slavery, but I'd much rather that people would just stop practicing racism.

I'm sure the ladies feel the same about their plight.

Chuck "Jigsaw" Creekmur is the co-founder of AllHipHop.com.

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Community Open House Discusses White Anti Racism and Its Relevance to the Social Justice Movement:

First Public Event of AWARE-LA

the Alliance of White Anti-Racists Everywhere- Los Angeles

By Clare Robbins, AWARE-LA

When members of the Alliance of White Anti-Racists Everywhere – Los Angeles present their first public "Open House" on Saturday July 21st at 1pm, they will be moving through uncharted territory. While white anti-racists have long played supportive roles in social justice circles in Los Angeles, an explicit conversation about the role of white people in the social justice movement has not been had in a long time.

"What are the challenges and prospects for white folks doing this work? How can white anti-racists organize other white people against white supremacy? What does it mean for white people to 'do our own work' to end racism? These are precisely the types of questions we intend to ask," says Hillary Stephenson, an AWARE organizer, "and hopefully offer some ideas and practices that AWARE-L.A. is engaged in today." The event is called "Transformative Alliances: White Anti-Racism and Its Relevance to the Social Justice Community of Los Angeles," and will serve as a space for AWARE-L.A. to share its thinking with the larger community and for the community to engage AWARE's practice.

The focus for the afternoon will be to explore the importance of anti-racist organizing in the white community. Over the last 10 years, many white anti-racists have done and continue to do consciousness-raising work through "white privilege awareness" workshops, and by participating in and supporting organizations led by folks of color. While these strategies are necessary for building effective social change, AWARE's organizers feel that something crucial has been missing in this work: namely, the work of actively organizing in the white community. They believe it is crucial for white anti-racists to bring issues such as police brutality, the criminal injustice system, immigration, and environmental racism to the white community to build broader support for struggles against these issues- issues that disproportionately affect communities of color.

"We want our work to be understood as an offering to the movement and for individuals and organizations to see AWARE as a resource. For example when people of color organizations have white folks who want to support the work, we as AWARE-L.A. can offer a space for those white folks to work on their racism so that the organizations don't have to do all the work of educating white folks about racism," says AWARE co-founder Cameron Levin.

The event is AWARE-LA's first public, "formal introduction" to the larger social justice community. The organization has grown by word-of-mouth over the last three and half years, and now has a base of 60 white anti-racists who participate in a monthly Saturday Dialogue space to workshop their anti-racist practice and examine and deconstruct white supremacist socialization.

Other major projects of AWARE include its "organizing arm"- Active Resistance to White Supremacy (AR2WS). AR2WS is working to build a white anti racist base in Los Angeles, which will be active in working with local people of color social justice movements as well as engaging in their own campaigns to address racism and white supremacy. The Anti-Racist Consciousness Raising ART workgroup of AWARE focuses on the creation of an anti-racist culture among white people by raising consciousness about white privilege and white supremacy through radical art.

The Open House will also feature a special poetry performance by Luis Rodriguez, other community artists, and speakers from the Racial Justice Alliance- a project of AWARE-L.A., which serves as a multiracial space working to create racial justice dialogue in Los Angeles.

"Transformative Alliances: White Anti-Racism and Its Relevance to the Social Justice Communities of Los Angeles" is on Saturday July 21st, from 1:00PM – 3:30PM. The location is the Shakespeare Festival LA building at 1238 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, California 90026. The event is FREE, refreshments provided, and childcare available upon request.

AWARE welcomes the whole community for an afternoon of fierce analysis, radical art and conversation on creative strategies to fight white supremacy.

For more information about AWARE-L.A. check out

http://awarehome.blogspot.com/ or email awarejb@earthlink.net

For questions about this event, please email :

aware.event@gmail.com.

A.R.A.

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK

FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) WE GO WHERE THEY GO: When fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the streets!

2) WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK: This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we rely on ourselves to protect ourselves & stop the fascists.

3) NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS: In ARA, we have different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement, an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, class exploitation, repression, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. **WE INTEND TO WIN!**

ANTI-RACIST ACTION INTERNATIONAL GATHERING, OCTOBER 12 – 14, 2007 KENT, OHIO SAVE THE DATE!

Message from Oscar López Rivera to the 20th Annual Vigil for Dignity in Isabela, Puerto Rico

Warm and patriotic greetings to all those present.

Why is there so much chaos in the world? Why does the world appear to be upside down? Who is behind this chaos and who benefits from it? Why is there such exaltation for the use of violence and for war?

Let us look at the policies of the U.S. government and its war in Iraq and Afghanistan, supposed to eradicate the terrorism of Islamic fundamentalists and to save the world for democracy. Several years of this war and what has the empire achieved? It has planted and produced violence everywhere. It has assassinated hundred of thousands of human beings and it has mutilated many more. It has created fratricidal struggles and conflicts in neighboring countries and in the region and has destroyed the infrastructures of both countries.

It has installed two puppet governments and has passed the cost of the war to the Iraqis and the Afghans. The only things that it has successfully built are permanent military bases, enormous prisons, waves of conflict and, in Baghdad it has built the largest U.S. embassy in the world. What it has basically done is to implant a political model of permanent chaos that is used by the Zionist Israelis in order to control and dominate the Palestinian people.

The empire has the world on its head and in this way controls, dominates, plunders and exploits as it likes and also does so completely with our people and our sister countries in the Caribbean and Latin America. We are also affected by the politics of chaos. Some of the elements of that policy are the war on drugs, the free trade agreements and the criminalization of undocumented immigrants.

We know that the war on drugs was not created in order to eradicate that plague that has inflicted so much damage and destruction on us. Every day there are more and more drugs, more drug users, more crime, more fear and more insecurity, but the war continues. If we read and listen to the news from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador or Columbia, we become aware of what it means to be countries besieged by paramilitary forces, drug cartels, gangs and corrupt politicians and which experience daily instability, fear and impotence. The chaos created determines how they live, function and think while that reality is what our peoples live. The empire uses its wars against drugs to maintain its military forces and repressive agencies in the region in order to protect its economic interests and exercise control.

The free trade agreements have nothing to do with commercial freedom or with the elimination of poverty. The empire uses them to strangle autonomous economies in order to squeeze the juice out of them and accelerate the poverty. Everything should be privatized, they ordain, and everything must yield advantage.

It is the Latin American undocumented immigrants in the United States who are the best example of the devastation and poverty that has been caused by the treaties of free commerce. They are workers who have been displaced from their lands and forced to emigrate. More than 12 million do work that Americans do not want to do and for which they are extremely badly paid. They are criminalized, persecuted and often imprisoned and deported. Upon being deported to their countries they face more misery, more chaos and harsh treatment at the hands that U.S. repressive agencies have forced governments to implement in order to repress and silence the poor.

Where is this world of salvation by the empire in the name of democracy? Where are the jobs, the opportunities and the better living conditions? Where are the sane and secure spaces? If we want a free homeland and a better world that is more just, we must struggle for it. If we want peace we have to make it. The good thing is that we have the power to do it. All of us in struggle together and being in much solidarity we can turn the world right side up. Thinking of Filiberto, IN RESISTANCE AND STRUGGLE.

Oscar López Rivera, May 23, 2007

Oscar Lopez Rivera is a captured Puerto Rican independentista who has been a political prisoner/POW in the US for more than 25 years.

Zolo Agona Azania to Face a 3rd Death Penalty Trial

by Howard Emmer

On Thursday, May 10, 2007 the Indiana Supreme Court reversed Boone County Superior Court Judge Steve David's ruling that barred the state of Indiana from pursuing the death penalty in the case of Zolo Azania. Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter appealed Judge David's ruling and that prompted arguments before the Indiana Supreme Court on June 27th, 2006. Zolo, who was convicted of murder in 1982, has spent the last 26 years in Indiana prisons, most of that time on death row. Twice the state has had Zolo's death penalty verdict overturned by the Indiana Supreme Court due to: prosecution's suppression of evidence favorable to the defendant, ineffective assistance of counsel, and systematic exclusion of African Americans from the jury pool.

In Judge David's ruling, he argued that the state could not seek the death penalty against Zolo a third time because of the length of time that had passed since the crime was committed (24 years at that time), and that the delay was caused primarily by the state. Many of the witnesses, material and character, are now deceased and much of the evidence is either missing or destroyed. David also found that a jury at a third sentencing trial would be unduly focused on the "future dangerousness" of the convicted, depriving Zolo of an unprejudiced decision by the jury. Judge David concluded that society's interest would be best served by barring the state from a third death sentence.

The majority opinion, written by Justice Sullivan and supported by Chief Justice Shepard and Justice Dickson, tries to blame Zolo Azania for the 25 year delay by having the audacity to file appeals to his conviction and death sentence which ultimately exposed mistakes and misconduct by the prosecution in his trials. As stated above, it was this same Indiana Supreme Court that found there was just cause for these appeals. To now blame Zolo for the delays caused by pursuing them is tantamount to blaming the victim.

Justices Boehm and Rucker both wrote dissenting opinions supporting Judge David's ruling. In his dissenting opinion Justice Boehm found the majority opinion's arguments for attributing the delays to Zolo "both novel and indefensible." Justice Rucker was troubled that the inordinate delay (25 years plus) would affect Zolo's ability to produce character witnesses and cross examine state witnesses.

The state of Indiana has already convicted and held Zolo for over 25 years for a crime in which he has always maintained his innocence. It is only fair that it drops its pursuit of the death penalty that is cruel, inhuman, racist and has no place being used in a civilized society.

Zolo's lawyers are considering a petition for certiorari to the United States Supreme Court.

Contact Howie Emmer for more information: 773-425-6716

Editor's note: Long before invading Iraq, the U.S. was an empire, a settler colonial empire established on stolen Native land. Today, the US is desperately trying to extinguish the claims of indigenous people to their territory, through the increased militarization of the military-imposed border with Mexico, through efforts to impose statehood on Puerto Rico, and through the Akaka Bill to reduce the sovereign Hawaiian people to wards of U.S. 'trust' relationship. We will never overcome US imperial power unless we attack it at its base and roots in this conquest of indigenous land.—Editor

Defend Native Hawaiian sovereignty -- Oppose the Akaka Bill

Brief excerpts from a talk by J. Kehaulani Kauanui

J. Kehaulani Kauanui, a Native Hawaiian professor at Wesleyan University in Middletown, presented a history of Hawaii/U.S. relations and her views of the Akaka Bill in the US Senate in a talk at Yale University on April 4, according to a report by Gale Courey Toensing in *Indian Country Today.* [http://www.indiancountry.com/content.cfm?id=1096414877&print=yes] After acknowledging the land now known as New Haven as the homeland of the Quinnipiac people, she said the Hawaiian sovereignty movement is split between those who support Sen. Akaka's "federal recognition" bill, and "those who want full independence from the United States based on decolonization and de-occupation under international law."

"At the heart of this division between federal recognition and independence is the debate as to whether or not, and if so, how Native Hawaiians fit into U.S. policy on Native American governing entities," Kauanui said. "You have a backlash against tribal nations in this area who are absolutely entitled to federal recognition and you have the state bearing down on them, and the courts continue to erode tribal sovereignty. So the challenge for me, intellectually, legally and politically, has been how to formulate my critique of federal recognition for Hawaiians without it ever being misinterpreted as something that can be used against tribes here, because I support the federal recognition of tribes here," Kauanui said. She asserted that the central argument against federal recognition in Hawaii rests on "the particularity of the Hawaiian claims given the legal history of the Hawaiian kingdom."

Those particularities are embedded as facts in *Public Law 103-150*, an apology to the Hawaiian people signed in 1993 by Bill Clinton. The apology acknowledges the illegality of the U.S. government's military-backed regime change of "the sovereign Hawaii nation" in 1893 and its support for the illegally created "provisional government" in violation of treaties and international law. The insurgents were wealthy American and European financiers and colonists who owned sugar plantations. The key statement in the apology acknowledges Hawaii's continuing independence: "The indigenous Hawaiian people never directly relinquished their claims to their inherent sovereignty as a people or over their national lands to the United States, either through their monarchy or through a plebiscite or referendum."

"When you say 'people,' you're saying a nation. A people is not an ethnic group," Kauanui said, quoting Lumbee legal scholar David Wilkins. Native Hawaiians who want to pursue self-determination through international law contest the U.S. use of the "doctrine of discovery" to claim indigenous peoples' lands. They oppose the U.S. assertion to legal title to those lands while only recognizing tribal nations' use of the land, Kauanui said. Hawaii was an internationally recognized independent nation at the time, with ambassadorial delegations from and to many other nations. The so-called "provisional government" which took over from the Hawaiian monarchy in a U.S.-backed coup, ceded 1.8 million acres of Hawaiian lands to the United States in 1898, but those lands, which were not their to give, have never fallen into private hands. For more information, contact **Aloha First, PO Box 701, Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795, info@hawaii-nation.org** or check out **http://hawaii-nation.org**

End the Racist Death Penalty:

Death Row Inter-Communalist Vanguard Engagement:

DRIVE for Justice

The anti-death penalty movement has seen some major changes in the last couple of months. One of the central emerging themes surrounding the death penalty debate is the cruel and unusual way in which executions are carried out. But the death penalty is cruel and unusual far before an inmate reaches the execution chamber. The people on death row in Texas can attest to the inhumane nature of capital punishment from the time of arrest all the way to the gurney.

At the end of last year, about a dozen brave men on Texas' death row went on hunger strike to protest inhumane conditions on the Polunsky unit where inmates awaiting execution are warehoused. Even the New York Times took note of the protest. "Likening themselves to prisoners at Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo Bay," the New York Times reported last November, "a dozen inmates on death row in Texas have staged hunger strikes over the last month to protest what they call abusive conditions, including 23 hours a day of isolation in their cells." Continued media attention like this could cause the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to change the horrific conditions.

Rob Will explains the sit-in method of protest on the row and the response it is met with, "You're tired of abuse, fed up with oppression, seven officers are towering over you, staring you down and ordering you to get up. In your mind you think, 'I'm tired of this sh*t. I'm just f*cking tired of this sh*t! I don't even want these oppressive cowards to touch me!' Then a CO [correctional officer = prison guard—ed.] suddenly grabs you and his hands feel like the sting of a slavemaster's whip... How would you react?"

The protesters are asking for basic needs to be met such as food that is edible and the proper maintenance of their toilets so that they don't clog and overflow their cell floors. Grievances also include the lack of education and work programs; group recreation; access to adequate healthcare; efficient mail services; arts and crafts programs; televisions; law library supplies; phone calls; religious services; visitation rights; and adequate laundry and hygiene services. Their requests could easily be granted and their humanity upheld. Unfortunately, though, the authorities have an interest in dehumanizing death row prisoners.

The Death Row Inter-Communalist Vanguard Engagement, also known as DRIVE, stands in solidarity with the hunger strikers and continues their own methods of protest. DRIVE is a multi-racial group of non-violent prison activists who are dedicated to bringing change for the entire death penalty population. Their protest tactics include distributing literature, addressing their issues with guards, and occupying day rooms, showers and visitation chambers. Prisoners are encouraged to protest on days when executions are scheduled, and to protest their own executions by refusing to walk to the van that takes them to the Ellis Unit, where executions still take place; refusing last meals; and refusing to walk to the execution chamber. The DRIVE membership has doubled in size in the last couple of months, going from five members to ten, and has expanded to women's death row also. This sends out a signal that more and more death row prisoners are fed up with the inhumane conditions and the struggle is moving forward.

Any type of resistance on the row is met with what can only be called torture. Many times their non-violent protests are met with 37mm gas cannons designed to hurt, not subdue, inmates. Protesters are often refused recreation, food, and showers after being gassed. The guards also use "divide and conquer" tactics to try to dissuade other prisoners from protesting.

Family members are also speaking out against the inhumane treatment of their loved ones. Sister of DRIVE comrade Kenneth Foster, Claire Dube, explains why this struggle is so important to her, "Many of the family members of the inmates and especially DRIVE have concerns about their family member's humanity and treatment. Inmates are still human beings and should be treated as if their family was the one taking care of them."

In response to letters from overseas raising concerns about the conditions at Polunsky, Texas Representative Jerry Madden, the chair of the Texas House Corrections Committee, has said that he will look into the situation at Polunsky. Plus, representatives of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice have contacted the Austin Campaign to End the Death Penalty regarding concerns that have been raised about the conditions at Polunsky. This shows that the pressure is working and that supporters on the outside can help Polunsky's prison activists achieve their goals.

To support the hunger strikers and the members of DRIVE on Texas's death row, activists can send grievance letters to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), which runs the state's prisons. It is important that these officials know that the inmates have support from outraged people on the outside, and this will help the prisoners with their struggle. Sample letters can be downloaded from www.drivemovement.org. Supporters also should send solidarity letters to the members of DRIVE. The demands of the inmates will fall on deaf ears unless a movement of support is built on the outside to put pressure on the TDCJ.

"Yet even as we take this drastic step to stand against this injustice, we realize our actions alone will not likely bring the changes we require," write Steven Woods, Justen Hall and Richard Cobb in their statement of intent. "We need your support in this struggle, fighting with us side by side. The administration will try to cover up and misconstrue our efforts, so we're asking you to get involved, to put up as much effort as you're able. Any actions you can take to help vocalize our plight are positive, be it writing to government officials, TDCJ administration, the media, participating in online blogs and forums, protesting if you're able, and encouraging others to get involved. We'll also need your encouragement and solidarity to help keep us from faltering, as even the most stout of heart can waver. The struggle will be long and hard, but in the end, with your help, we hope to succeed."

For more info about DRIVE; to read the journals of death row inmates, and to watch video of the repression they face visit www.drivemovement.org or www.anarchyinchains.coms. Send grievance letters to:

Warden Massey and Assistant Warden Hirch, Polunksy Unit,
3872 FM 350 South, Livingston, Texas 77351,
(936) 967-8082. Ask for the Warden's office.

Representative Jerry Madden, Chair,
Capitol Office Room EXT E1.506, P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768,
(512) 463-9974—fax

Write to DRIVE members:

Steven Woods, #999427
Reginald Blanton, #999395
Rob Will, #999402
Kenneth Foster, #999232
Gabriel Gonzalez, #999225
Da'mon Simpson, #999370
Randy Greer, #999042
Randy Halprin, #999453
Carroll Parr, #999479

Polunsky Unit,
3872 F.M. 350 South,
Livingston, TX
77351

Carolyn King, OC 7210,
P.O. Box 180 Unit R-B,
Muncy, PA 17756

PURE statement in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal

Published May 11, 2007 9:08 PM

Panthers United for Revolutionary Education is a group of revolutionary prisoners on Texas death row. [www.workers.org/2007/us/mumia-0510/]

Comrade Mumia is an ex-Black Panther and our organization, Panthers United for Revolutionary Education, is a product of the Panthers. Thus, it is safe to say that Mumia is our beginning. Living as we do under the most austere conditions of prisons, in what is arguably the most racist and backward state of the union, Texas, we are indeed amongst the most oppressed and repressed. We are poor. But without you, the people, we would be powerless. And without our brother, Mumia, we would be voiceless. So our interest here is clear and direct.

Let us make clear, also, this oh-so-shocking truth: Our brother and comrade Mumia is in the hands of killers! Killers who prefer to do their dirty deeds in the dark and are therefore waiting with the patience of a snake for you to grow tired; tired of turning out; tired of holding vigil; tired of being inconvenienced by sacrificing so much and just plain ole tired of being tired…But we have bad news for those laying in wait. We won't ever get that tired! Y'all hear me? I said, WE WON'T EVER GET THAT TIRED! And those that are waiting will die waiting…

It is often said that Mumia is the most recognized political prisoner in the United States. We have no interest in arguing semantics, but Mumia is a POW. This fact must be recognized for a full appreciation of what the brother is facing. The U.S. government literally declared war on the Black Panther Party. The assassinations, the frame-ups, the forced exiles, the infiltrations and agitation that had Panthers turning on Panthers are all recorded in history. To this day ex-Panthers are still doing prison time, living in exile and being rounded up. Why? What makes them different from other groups?

The difference is that most liberation organizations of those times were mere irritations to the state because they only demanded reforms within the constraints of the capitalist state. But the Panthers attacked the state itself… At the time, the government was fighting against communism everywhere, Asia, Africa, the Soviet Union, in its own backyard of Central and South America, and in its own midst, the Panthers here at home.

Mumia was then, and is now, a soldier for the people. He is our voice, our great inspiration. Our esteemed chairman, Howard Guidry, explains Mumia best: "From the isolation block of Texas' most prided plantation and in spite of all of the artificial forces unleashed to erode and mentally break us, we wish you all to know that our beloved brotha Mumia's voice, image and determination have exemplified the very revolutionary torch that has been passed on from our predecessors." Thank you! Power to the People!

In solidarity,
Muenda, Prime Minister, PURE

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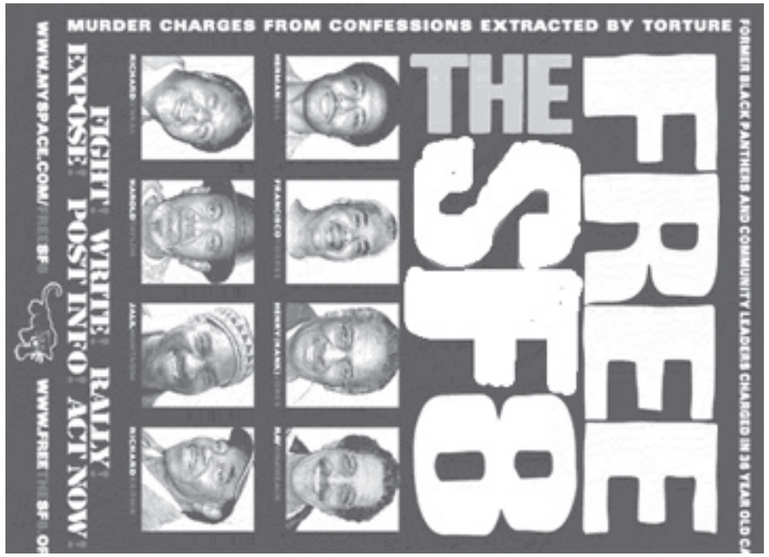

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The Truth Behind the Leimert Park Confrontation

Militant Black Riders help kick racist Minute-Klan out of the 'hood, bring the message of armed self defense before the whole world

by General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out), Black Riders Liberation Party

The new generation Black Panthers, the Black Riders Liberation Party, led 500 people in a frontal confrontation against the Ku Klux Klan offshoot known as the Minutemen and their racist police bodyguards. The Black Riders helped the people achieve a powerful victory in a battle in the revolutionary struggle to free Black people from the evil forces of white racism, capitalism, and domestic imperialism. We stopped those white racists and the "house-nigga" scum supporters, like Ted Hayes, from getting into Leimert Park, and kicked them out of the 'hood. Panther Power to the Black Riders!

Black people in L.A. and throughout the country have praised and admired the Black Riders' efforts to instill a greater sense of African pride and armed resistance in Black people who have been robbed of their dignity and identity by racist white people and the pig power structure. Many ranked the Black Riders' martial-arts trained soldiers as the most-disciplined, best-trained formidable body of Black people in the community. The Black Riders are well-known for our ability in successfully recruiting, uniting and politically educating some of the youngest and most dangerous former Bloods and Crips in L.A. This is part of a serious national plan to change the negative Black-on-Black violent criminal mentality to a positive Black freedom fighter mentality in every Black ghetto in the Amerikkkan Empire. Frequently, when no one is tackling the tough issues, the new generation Black Panthers – the Black Riders – is dealing with them. We are in the streets and we are the fastest growing Black revolutionary organization in the U.S.

We are also known for defending the people against police terrorism with video cameras and other legal weapons, also providing the people with special trained security, armed with legal shotguns and rifles to neutralize white racist threats to the neo-colonized Black community. We still believe in our God given right and our second amendment constitutional right to carry guns and defend ourselves against right wing militia groups and racist pig attacks just like the original Black Panthers. The act itself of teaching empty hand (karate) and firearms self defense within the community should be looked at as a revolutionary means of Black empowerment. Through self-defense, people are given their own means of self-determination as well as a way to stand up and fight back.

A powerful marching force of camouflage-uniformed Black Riders armed with a Red, Black & Green flag, walkie-talkie chirps, gas masks, knives, Black karate skills and every other legal weapon we could get hold of, posted up in military formation face to face at the front of the defense line against the racist "Minute-Klan" and their fascist pig security. Those white racists stood around looking scared and amazed, with their racist confederate flags, as many other Black Riders in civilian clothes rotated in the extremely large crowd, doing security at every single corner of Leimert Park.

We were ready and willing to die defending Black people in our community by any means necessary. Our new generation Black Panthers confrontational politics triggered a nationwide wave of white racist outrage, fear and controversy in the establishment news media and the Internet, as a result of this mission.

As General George Jackson points out, "To the slave, revolution is an imperative, a love-inspired conscious act of desperation. It's aggressive. It isn't 'cool' or cautious. It's bold, audacious, violent, an expression of icy disdainful hatred [of the oppressor]. It can hardly be any other way without raising a fundamental contradiction."

The weakly-trained armed white supremacist group known as the Minute (klan) men and their pig escorts were out-numbered, out-smarted and out-maneuvered by the armed militant Black Riders and a giant mix of angry Black and Brown oppressed people working together in uniting against a common enemy. Twenty minutes before the counter-demonstration was to take place, in a weak and vain attempt to stop the Black Riders from marching on the Minute-klan, the racist LAPD raided our Black Power Van. Two strong comrades who were supposed to go on the mission were arrested on bogus trumped-up traffic violations and released the next day. The occupying pig army launched yet another raid on our van the next day after the mission that resulted in nobody being arrested. What can we do against "all these pigs"? Go after the system that trains them and sics them on us.

Despite the pig harassment, many, many sisters and brothers from off the block joined with the Black Riders once the pigs exposed themselves to be nothing but common criminals and coward-ass busters with badgers. So the attack backfired on all counts.

Free the SF 8 and All Political Prisoners!
Power to the People!
Save Leimert with organized force!
Bulletproof Black Power Love!
We will win!

--General T.A.C.O.
Taking
All
Capitalists
Out

Ed. Note: Just after the events below, half a dozen Black Riders were arrested in coordinated raids in San Bernardino and Los Angeles. Some charges are still pending. Cash donations for defense can be sent to :
Black Riders, PO Box 8297, L.A. CA 90008

Warrant for Evidence of a Thought Crime

In August, Los Angeles sheriff's deputies and San Bernardino sheriff's deputies, with federal agents, raided a home in Highland CA where members of the Black Riders Liberation Party live. The search warrant claims, based on a police affidavit, that there is probable cause to believe property "used as a means of committing a felony" and "is possessed by a person with the intent of committing a public offense." However, neither the alleged felony committed or being investigated, nor the person allegedly intending to commit an offense is named in the warrant.

Instead, the warrant authorizes the search and seizure of "any evidence of membership or affiliation with the Black Riders Liberation Party (BRLP) also known as the New Black Panther Party." (The New Black Panther Party is a completely different and separate organization from the Black Riders.) "Any evidence such as any paraphernalia making any reference to the Black Riders Liberation Party and/or any drawings, miscellaneous writings, objects and/or graffiti depicting members' names, initials, logos, monikers, slogans and/or containing mention of membership affiliation, activity and/or identity, as it is your Affiant's (the cop seeking the warrant) experience that members are known by street names or monikers to their fellow Black Riders Liberation Party members, and that they frequently write their names and/or monikers of their associates on …miscellaneous items or papers, both within and on their vehicles and within and on their vehicles…" In other words having your own name written on a paper in your own home is apparently evidence of a felony if you are "affiliated" with the Black Riders Liberation Party! This is thought crime.

The warrant also authorizes searching for and taking "any paintings, drawings, film (developed and undeveloped), photographs and/or photograph albums depicting persons, vehicles, weapons, and/or items which are indicative of membership or association with the BRLP…" In other words, having a photograph of a weapon – or for that matter, a photograph or drawing of yourself – is evidence of a felony if you are "associated" with the BRLP! Talk about guilt by association!

The warrant goes on to authorize taking "scanners, … all firearms, including rifles, shotguns, pistols, derringers…" (none of which are illegal weapons) "publications, manuals, schematics, video tapes, drawings and blueprints showing the assembly of firearms, … Firearm … records, including but not limited to firearm shipping invoices, firearm dealer's record of sales, firearm inventory lists, receipts for the sale and purchase of firearm [sic] and firearm components, order forms ….gun show exhibition fees…" In other words, evidence of legal purchase of legal weapons is evidence of a felony!

The warrant also authorizes police seizure of "rent receipts, utility bills, addressed mail; personal ID, keys, purchase receipts, sales receipts, photographs, vehicle pink slips and vehicle registration." Finally, the warrant gets around to the hot spot: "Any and all explosives, explosive/destructive devices, including but not limited to, any improvised explosive devices" – IEDs, as in Iraq – "including but not limited to galvanized, brass or PVC pipe and or end caps… electrical tape, wires, books, diagrams, magazines or other literature describing the manufacture and detonation of explosives…" In pursuit of this fishing expedition, apparently designed to provoke an incident and justify shooting or killing members of the BRLP, and possibly to lay the basis for a later conspiracy indictment of some kind involving the entire BRLP, the deputies showed up with armored personnel carriers, a battering ram, and enough cops to seal off four square blocks around the house. When they failed to provoke an armed confrontation, they messed

up the house, and took various possessions, including the hard drive of a computer. They also took away a child and arrested his mother (because apparently, being the child of a Black revolutionary is hazardous to your health, and the state can kidnap you into foster care for your "protection." As George Jackson said, quite some time ago, "Fascism is already here."

Frustrated by their inability to make more than three arrests, police shortly thereafter raided a hotel in south Los Angeles to arrest T.A.C.O, leader of the Black Riders, on a minor traffic offense. They hog-tied him, moved him around jurisdictions to prevent bail from being set, and attempted to interrogate him at gunpoint. It appears that having failed to provoke an opportunity to shoot or kill members of the BRLP, may be trying to lay the basis for a COINTELPRO-type conspiracy indictment of the Party and its leaders, members and associates. It is vital that this Homeland Security/PATRIOT Act operation be defeated, and that solidarity be built even more strongly with the Riders, particularly around the causes that have drawn so much heat on them, such as freeing the SF8 and all political prisoners, building African consciousness among Black youth, and developing internationalism as a basis for Black/Brown unity.

Anti-Racists Face Serious Legal Battle in Philly

On July 23, four anti-fascists from the Philadelphia area were arrested at what was supposed to be a Ku Klux Klan rally in Center City Philadelphia. Jared Schultz, Tom Keenan, Jason Robbins - all of Philadelphia ARA - and Jim McGovern of the Progressive Labor Party were all arrested and charged trumped up misdemeanors in a situation that for all practical purposes was straight up entrapment.

Rumors spread through Philly starting Friday July 20 that the KKK was going to show up for an 11AM rally on Monday at Love Park. While anti-fascists were present starting at 10:30, no racists showed up for the rally until noon, when two men wearing neo-Nazi t-shirts showed up. Anti-fascists approached the men, confirmed they were neo-Nazis and told them to leave. Words were exchanged, and then the nazis said they were leaving. Anti-fascists followed to make sure they kept their promise.

Strangely, Civil Affairs cops remained on the other side of the park the entire time and made no effort to follow the group even when they were out of their sight. The boneheads got into an SUV around the corner and were driven away. As they attempted to drive off, conveniently blocked by traffic, a verbal confrontation ensued with the anti-fascists for several minutes before an SUV window was smashed. The driver then flashed his badge and ordered Schultz, Keenan, Robbins and McGovern against the wall.

While the arresting officer was a Phila. PD detective, the SUV, according to paperwork received by the arrestees, was the vehicle of FBI Special Agent Sean Brennan, also present during the arrests. What the FBI was doing escorting neo-Nazis remains a mystery.

After the arrests, all four anti-fascists were transported to the 9th Police Precinct where they remained for a full day awaiting notice of their charges and bail. Initially, they were informed that Internal Affairs was investigating their case and that they'd be facing 10 charges - 4 felonies and 6 misdemeanors. In the end, the felonies were dropped, leaving 8 misdemeanors of varying degrees. The rapid dropping of charges proves just how trumped-up they are. But there's still a lot at stake for The Love Park 4.

Currently, everyone faces Possession of an Instrument of Crime, Criminal Conspiracy, Institutional Vandalism, Reckless Endangering, Resisting Arrest, Criminal Mischief, Harassment and Disorderly Conduct. Everyone is out of jail, doing fine and just taking some time to relax for a few days before what could be a lengthy and expensive legal ordeal. All the defendants are in the process of establishing a legal defense fund and securing legal counsel. We are confident that with the right resources, all of the anti-fascists arrested will be able to defeat these outrageous charges which could result in tens of thousands of dollars in fines and years of jail time -- ***But we sure can't go it alone!***

We need the resources to win this legal battle and you can help right now! Simply go to http://www.paypal.com,
click on the "send money" tab and make a donation to: **cyndipitt@gmail.com.**
If you wish to send funds through the mail a check or well concealed cash, noting it's for the Love Park 4 to: **Heartsville Community Space**
PO Box 5917
Philadelphia, PA 19137
Write to **philly_ara@yahoo.com** to receive updates on how you can lend a hand.

Nazis lie, press distorts, and cops arrest 3 antifascists
Armed Nazis Assault Anti-fa in NJ after Anti-Immigrant Rally

Wherever neo-Nazis go, injustice follows. After an anti-migrant rally in Morristown, NJ July 28, two neo-Nazis attacked antifascists behind town hall. The neo-Nazis, Annette and Frederick K. Williams ("Erick_K_W" on Stormfront) of North Bergen, NJ, jumped from their pick-up armed with bats and knives and assaulted pro-migrant counter-protesters. After taunting the anti-racist activists who had outed them earlier at the rally, Williams lunged at them but was quickly disarmed and his knife fell to the pavement. A local resident saw the fight and joined in to support the neo-Nazis, shouting obscenities and dragging down an activist who'd just been standing there. Williams pulled a baseball bat from the bed of his pick up and again attacked the anti-racists.

More anti-fas rushed to the scene. Williams got back in his truck and tried to flee, but not before other activists blocked his way. Moments later, police rushed in, found Williams' weapon in the back of his pickup and confiscated it. True to their fear of authority, the Williams' story quickly changed, telling police they were the victims of an unprovoked assault, but other witnesses at the scene and a video of the attack prove otherwise. After initially handcuffing the bat-wielding Frederick and detaining wife Annette, cops decided to take his word for it and rounded up several anti-racists several blocks away . Although cops had the bat, knife and other evidence in their hands, they took no action against Frederick Williams. Instead they let Williams choose which activists he wanted to be arrested. Frederick Williams suffered no more than a few scrapes and bruised ego, and his wife Annette a bloody lip, while one of those arrested was beaten with a baseball and sustained injuries to his knee and leg.

The *NY Times* printed an erroneous article using the police report, based on Williams' story, which is contradicted by the statements of other witnesses and the evidence. Police reported 10 activists targeted in the assault, when fewer than four were involved. The article made no mention of Williams' weapons. Charges against the activists reflected this lie: one was charged with two counts of weapons possession, yet fingerprint analysis will show Williams wielded the weapons. Other charges include assault, disorderly conduct, and causing bodily injury. Bails were set ridiculously high, one with a $5,000 bail with 10% bond, and two of $2500 cash bail without bond - all for non-indictable offenses (NJ's equivalent of a misdemeanor).

Police obstructed the release of the activists, first saying they'd be released without charges, then that they'd have charges but be released on their own recognizance. They finally informed supporters of the bail eight hours after the initial arrests while not stating any of the charges. All the activists were bailed out within three hours of being transferred to the Morris County Jail through the efforts of friends a broad-based, growing movement committed to standing up in the face of racist attacks, harassment and lies. Their spirits are high and they're confident they'll win in court.

Organizers of the anti-immigrant rally, including blogger Robb Pearson and Morristown Mayor Don Cresitello, publicly distanced themselves from charges of racism but seemed to have no problem with the two dozen openly nazi participants at the rally, including Williams. Cresitello even stopped his prepared speech to launch a tirade against "Communists and Marxists." Antifascists had made their presence known in sight and earshot of the racist rally, exposing the nazis present. At one point, after anti-racists identified several boneheads in the crowd near town hall, the boneheads walked over to confront the protesters only to be swarmed. A tense but non-violent face off ended with the boneheads realizing they were out of their league. One ran into the local Kings' supermarket to hide, while others hastily drove off.

Williams began posting to Stormfront begging for money from other white supremacists, claiming antifas dragged him and his wife from his truck and seriously injured them. Nothing could be further from the truth, a pathetic cover-up by a neo-Nazi. But now, the nazis have gone even further, sending anonymous threats to activists and students who were not even at the counter-rally and had only re-posted calls to action. They've even begun targeting family members of those arrested. Nazis have posted photos of other activists online and called for them to be singled out for assault and perhaps worse. This only shows exactly what follows when nazis are allowed to take the streets unopposed: brutal and cowardly assaults on unarmed protesters who stand up to their hate.

There's a treasure trove of information on active white power organizers, including the participants in the assault, and any move by them will lead us right back to the source. They will be exposed, lose their jobs, and may face years behind bars if any harm comes to the activists, their friends or loved ones. Nazis will not be allowed to take one step in their communities and towns without being exposed to the light and put in their place at every turn. Anti-fas who succeeded in shutting down the World Church of the Creator, forcing the National Alliance off the streets, and countering the NSM at every turn will not let them pass. Further nazi organizing in the mainstream will bring down the movements they enter, ruining the careers of any public figure or politician who flirts with fascism.

Contact: morristownantifa@riseup.net

Nazi Attempt to Attack Anti-Racists in Scarborough, Ontario is Repelled

On August 5, anti-racist activists from across southern Ontario gathered in Toronto for a regional meeting and to participate in outings of local nazi goons. The outings took place in Scarborough, in the east end of Toronto, to alert the communities where neo-nazi organizers live. The two lucky recipients were Mike Gaio and Eric Sheridan - white power boneheads who've claimed affiliation with the "East End Bootboys."

At 80 Secord Avenue (where Gaio lives), residents thanked the activists. With the exception of some whining from a younger sibling of Gaio, the reception of the outing was positive, especially from local youth of all ethnic backgrounds. Some folks were aware of who Gaio was. The other destination was 560 Birchmount Road (where Sheridan lives). Activists decided to flyer streets around his home, including St. Clair and Birchmount. As three anti-racists were walking down Birchmount, Sheridan and his fellow white power thug Adam Karaba attempted to attack from behind, armed with a baseball bat, screaming "White power!" and "You fucking commies!" Sheridan unsuccessfully attacked one, while the two other anti-racists confronted Karaba, who was quickly rejoined by Sheridan, who'd been forced to drop his bat. Realizing the anti-racists weren't backing down, Sheridan and Karaba ran to a local gas station, where they were later spotted speaking with the police.

These same individuals have been repeatedly linked to racist and anti-Semitic intimidation and attacks on Toronto subways and in the streets. They've gone unopposed for too long. We must not allow these hateful crimes to go unchallenged. This is the time for us to unite and declare all our streets a nazi-free zone!

Anti-racists will return to Scarborough with even stronger ranks in the near future to continue exposing and opposing Sheridan, Gaio, Karaba, and all other racist cowards of east Toronto, and to loudly declare "¡No pasarán!" They shall not pass!

ARA Toronto info@aratoronto.org www.aratoronto.org
member: Southern Ontario Anti-Racist Action (SOARA) network

Why this is a Double Issue - Message from the Editor

Apologies to our readers, especially to the prisoner-subscribers whose growing ranks repeatedly assure us how important and valuable ***TTT*** is to them - for missing the Sept.-Oct. issue of ***Turning the Tide***. In August as the issue was in preparation, my oldest stepson, Lucas O. Binford, 35, was killed in a motorcycle accident. This grievous, tragic and really incomprehensible loss left his brother and me, the two main editorial and production workers on this paper, in no position to produce another issue for some time. We are still grappling with the enormity of the loss and all the family repercussions. I am also dealing with the passing earlier in the summer of a close comrade and friend, Ferd Eggan. This issue is dedicated to the memory of Ferd, a long-time anti-imperialist and former AIDS coordinator of Los Angeles, and to Lucas, son and brother, a father, lawyer and ex-Marine whose favorite Marine was anti-war anti-fascist Smedley Butler. May their untimely passings move us all to deepen our dedication to building a better world!--*Michael Novick, Editor*.

Support Grassroots Community Candidates for KPFK 90.7 FM Local Station Board

Ballots must be cast by Nov. 27 in local station board elections for KPFK and other Pacifica stations. There have been significant problems in the past with people not receiving their ballots in a timely fashion, and if you are a subscriber and don't have yours, check with your station.

This is a crucial election. KPFK is searching for a new general manager, and the attack on the station by various right-wing, corporate, statist and other reactionary elements is increasing. The ***LA Weekly***, now part of the "New Times" group of pseudo-alternative newspapers, has been keeping up a steady drumbeat of attacks, principally from former KPFK honcho Marc Cooper, aimed at undermining the station's support and pushing it to the right. Internally, forces with an agenda aimed at turning KPFK and Pacifica into a lapdog for the Democratic Party in time for the 2008 elections are sharpening their knives, having smelled blood with the resignation of station General Manager Eva Georgia. Spanish-language programming is one immediate target, perhaps primarily for its political independence and grassroots orientation. Similar forces took control of the network via the old self-perpetuating national board during the Clinton era, and would have destroyed Pacifica but for resistance from listeners.

After the Bush "victory" in 2000, they relented and allowed other more independent voices on the air and into the station governance, through a court settlement that mandated an elected local station and national board, because with Republicans controlling all three branches of government, they needed an alliance with more left oppositional elements to keep Pacifica going. Now that Democrats have regained control of the House and Senate and seem poised to retake the White House, these partisan forces are back to the rule or ruin tactics in an effort to use Pacifica to assure a Democratic victory and to enforce the view that "there is no alternative" to the plutocratic duopoly that runs the Empire.

In this context, it is crucial to elect candidates with a strong grassroots orientation, a history of involvement not only in Pacifica but also in daily struggles against the empire and its crimes. Candidates should be accountable to communities and to organizations and coalitions that can keep them focused and effective once they are elected. They must be prepared to defend free speech, and help mobilize listeners to build and defend KPFK and Pacifica as a community-oriented medium of information and enlightenment that can help people free themselves from ignorance, fear, and repression.

I believe that a number of people running this year for the KPFK LSB (from among whose ranks delegates to the Pacifica National Board which holds KPFK's license will be selected) merit your support. Most of them are people of color who support making space on the airwaves for grassroots voices that are too often unheard or ignored. Others are people of European descent who understand the critical importance of solidarity and anti-racism. KPFK and Pacifica use a single-transferable-voting system that allows you rank candidates in order of preference. The top 9 vote-getters will be elected. Other stations are also holding LSB elections simultaneously. At WBAI I urge you to vote for the Justice and Unity slate, endorsed by Michael Tarif Warren and many other community activists. Here are the KPFK candidates:

Lawrence Reyes, Puerto Rican Alliance*: "The future of community-based free-speech radio is at stake. Radio powered by the people must be a call to action and community empowerment. KPFK must address survival issues of people who've been marginalized; yet KPFK is resistant to addressing those issues and airing expressions coming directly from the affected communities."

Khallid A. Al-Alim, Coalition for Educational Justice*: "Over the last seven years I've been privileged to work with some of the most politically astute teachers, parents, and students throughout the city [in the Coalition for Educational Justice]."

Rufina Juarez, South Central Farmers*: "The system is in crisis and relies on its corporate media to prepare public opinion to meet its political ends. People's media have to provide listeners with information, but should also serve as a tool for turning knowledge into action. My background as a leader of the South Central Farmers highlighted the need to link peoples' radio with local peoples' struggles."

Schyna Pour: "KPFK needs a new generation of activists! That's where I come in. I'm currently 16, and for the past 11 years I've been involved with KPFK. KPFK needs to outreach to youth, we need youth to be involved in communities, to participate in programming, staffing, and increasing members and volunteers."

Reza Pour, Union of Progressive Iranians*: "People have the choice to come together from all different nationalities in a united struggle against a system that is the source of our suffering. All the struggles around KPFK find their roots in one question: Do we have the vision to find a new GM and forward the station progressively to the new era? I'm committed to helping KPFK continue its transformation to a station connected to all the communities."

Moe Mansour: "With your vote I will have the opportunity to accomplish our dreams by building a bridge and gathering more listeners and believers in democracy and freedom to our station, and in particular to create diversity of programs of our minorities groups of Spanish speakers and others. Together we make a difference.'"

Leslie Radford: "You're choosing half the LSB. Together they'll find our new GM and determine which direction, forward or back, progressive or regressive, the station will take. As you choose, look for people who bring leadership from outside KPFK, who bring new communities, ideas, and ways of organizing. Look for young people, fresh voices, for people who engage the issues of this century on the streets, in grassroots movements, in community building."

Jubilee Shine: "KPFK must be brightened and focused to illuminate the vitality of our communities and to educate the grassroots of the realities of our struggle. I live at 52nd & Vermont, and hope to bring more attention to the concerns and accomplishments of these neighborhoods. The war and police brutality are symptom[s] that only independent journalists will honestly expose. KPFK must remain fearless in its local reporting."

Chuck Anderson: "In addition [to] multi Spanish language and indigenous programs, an effort must be made to return full representation of African American peoples, more Arab American and Palestinian political and cultural broadcasts in Arabic and English. We must hear more about political prisoners, more disabled programs along with Animal rights, vegan/vegetarian, bus riders and welfare protection of the homeless and needy. The problems and concerns of all immigrants must be defended."

Joaquin Cienfuegos, Revolutionary Autonomous Communities*: "Imagine a station where people of the community have a voice, where their struggles are not ignored, and which they themselves help run and maintain. KPFK can be a station where new people are trained on how to run their own shows, how to produce, interview, record, and work the board. People should be broadcasting from the frontlines of their local battles and struggles against oppression and injustice."

* Affiliation for identification purposes only

Vote for Lawrence Reyes, Khallid Al-Alim, Rufina Juarez, Schyna Pour, Reza Pour, Joaquin Cienfuegos, Moe Mansour, Leslie Radford, Jubilee Shine and Chuck Anderson.
Preserve and extend community-based free speech radio!

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK 4 POINTS OF UNITY

1) WE GO WHERE THEY GO: When fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the streets!
2) WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK: This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we rely on ourselves to protect ourselves & stop the fascists.
3) NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS: In ARA, we have different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement, an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.
4) We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, class exploitation, repression, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a classless society. **WE INTEND TO WIN!** **www.antiracistaction.us** **www.arastore.com**

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Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

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Name: _____ **Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____ **Email:** _____ **Phone:** _____

Of 'White Trees,' Black Boys and Jena, Louisiana

[col. writ. 7/21/07] (c) '07 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

If you asked me two weeks ago if I've ever heard the name of a little town in Louisiana called 'Jena', I would've drawn a blank. Jena? Never heard of it.

It made me think of the ill-fated Palestinian village called Janin, that Israel crushed into oblivion several years ago. I think the incumbent president's daughter has that name (with and additional 'n'). But, that's it.

When a friend sent me several Internet articles about recent events there, I was, quite frankly, flabbergasted. I was astonished to learn that today, in the first decade of the 21st century, in Jena High School, there is still a 'white tree', called that not because the leaves are white, but because it is a generous giver of shade, and only white students sit under it.

In Sept. 2006, a young student named Kenneth Purvis asked the school principal for permission to sit under the 'white tree.' The principal answered that he could sit where he liked.

So, they did.

The next day, the 'white tree' was festooned with three nooses, in school colors. In the South (or the North, for that matter), nooses have one clear meaning -- they are threats of death.

People naturally got riled up, angry, or scared.

Jena's High School principal looked into the matter, found the three white students responsible, and recommended that they be expelled. The school superintendent felt otherwise, rescinded the expulsion, and instead recommended a 3 - day suspension. Speaking to the Chicago Tribune, the superintendent said, " Adolescents play pranks. I don't think it was a threat against anybody."

(Perhaps he meant anybody important - or white)

For Jena's Black community, this was but the latest slap in the face. Black students at the high school decided to resist by holding a sit-in under the 'white tree' to protest the light suspensions given to the 3 white noose-hangers. When word got out about the pending sit-in, the local DA came to a Jena school assembly with several cops, to threaten the students who dared to think they could do what people did some 40 years ago throughout the South (before the so-called 'New South'). He told them if they didn't stop making a fuss about this 'prank' he could be "your worst enemy." To make the point plain, he told the teen gathering, " I can take away your lives with a stroke of a pen."

Several days later, a white Jena student, who reportedly made racist taunts, including calling Black students 'niggers', got knocked down, punched and kicked. The boy was taken to the hospital, treated and released. That very night, he was well enough to attend a public event. Within days six Black Jena students were arrested and charged with attempted second degree murder. All six were also immediately expelled. The 6 teens were given bails set from $70,000 to $139,000. Bail at these ranges could've just as easily been set at $1 million, for they were at rates that none of the local parents could afford. That meant, of course, that all of the accused were held in jail for months, awaiting trial. And if money for bail was out of reach, what about money for attorneys?

Again -- out of the question. That meant that public defenders were appointed by the court. For one of the accused, Mychal Bell, this meant little better than no counsel at all, for his trial was soon decided by an all-white jury, who promptly convicted him of aggravated second degree assault, battery and conspiracy. Bell now awaits sentencing which may put the teenager in prison for the next 22 years. The public defender never challenged the all-white jury pool, put on no evidence, and didn't call a single defense witness.

The law of aggravated assault requires the use of a deadly weapon. What was the weapon? Tennis shoes.

Families and friends of the Jena 6 are organizing against this case, and are also being threatened by the local establishment. One woman told Louisiana ACLU member, Tory Pegram, "We have to convince more people to come rally with us..... What's the worse that could happen? They fire us from our jobs? We have the worst jobs in the town anyway. They burn a cross on our lawns or burn down my house? All of that has happened to us before. We have to keep speaking out to make sure it doesn't happen to us again, or our children will never be safe."

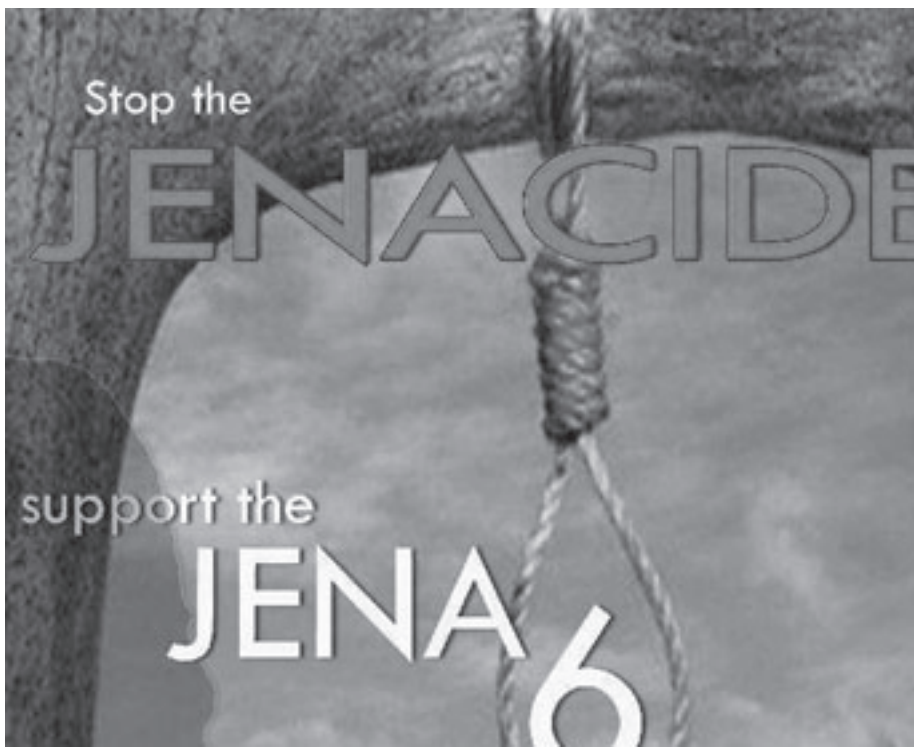
To contact the Jena 6 Defense Committee, write:

P.O. Box 2798
Jena, Louisiana 71342

Or by email: jena6defense@gmail.com.

[Sources: Quigley, Bill, "Injustice in Jena: Black Nooses Hanging From the 'White' Tree", July 3, '07; Quigley@loyana.edu.; Mangold, Tom, " 'Stealth racism' stalks deep South", BBC News, 5/24/07 online]

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a political prisoner in the United States, with what could be the final decision on his legal appeals possibly coming down at any moment. That decision could give Mumia his freedom, a new trial, life in prison, or execution. It is time to turn up the heat against this injustice. Free Mumia! For more on the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal read: Top Ten "Fry Mumia" Myths Debunked ***http://indybay.org/newsitems/2007/07/19/18436405.php***



Jena, Resistance and Self Defense

by
Lumumba Akinwole-Bandele, ***Malcolm X Grassroots Movement***

One of the main implications of the case of the Jena 6 is one that has sent countless activists to prison. The implication-if you dare to remove yourself from the role of a victim and attempt to assert justice yourself, you will pay a heavy price. The notion that six young Black men responded appropriately by not allowing an environment of terror to exist in their lives and their community enrages a society that does not want to see Black people recognizing and acting on the understanding that we alone will change our conditions. This case would have made countless people considerably more comfortable if these young brothers did not engage in a physical encounter with the white student. Many would have been appeased if we as a community continue to appeal to a legal system that has made it clear that it doesn't place much, if any value on the lives of Black people.

The Jena 6 engaged in an act of self-defense and their actions reflects our reality. Lynching, a genocidal act that occurred with the consent of the government, has long been a part of Black Experience in North America. In a petition submitted to the United Nations in 1951, titled "We Charge Genocide", Paul Robeson and other prominent Blacks, documented that at least 10,000 Black people had been lynched since the abolition of slavery. The exact number of people murdered can never be known. The horrendous act of lynching did not stop with the Civil Rights movement and our communities remain intimately familiar with the legacy of the noose. Countless numbers of Black people have been killed throughout recent history with the legal system failing to prevent similar cases from reoccurring.

The call for justice in this case must include the dismissal of all charges against the Jena 6 and the immediate termination of prosecutor Reed Walters. Any call for decreased charges affirms the notion that Black people can do anything to struggle against white supremacy/racism except for physically defending ourselves.

Our history of struggle in North America has always had the importance of defending our lives as a fundamental pillar. The act of defending ourselves as a community has always been criminalized. This process of criminalization is an attempt to dissuade communities at large from becoming self sufficient in their own security. Former Black Panther Party member, Jalil Muntaqim stated, "We are our own Liberators"; our path to liberation must be decided and executed by us in the manner that we determine. It is this act of self-determination that is considered to be the most dangerous by government officials. The legacy of the Black Liberation Movement was rooted in this ideology and was responded to viciously by all levels of law enforcement, which routinely attacked and murdered activists. Thus we have the many political prisoners and prisoners of war in the united states today. Nationally we have a responsibility to call for the freedom of all political prisoners in the united states who have been found guilty of simply defending the lives of Black people.

We are pleased to hear the many calls for people to pay attention to Jena Sixes in our own towns. We must recognize that we all live in Jena. The same people who boarded buses from all corners of this country must organize against the mass criminalization of our youth, militarized law enforcement and participate in the work for self-determination and the unconditional release of the political prisoners and prisoners of war in the United States.

Self Respect, Self Defense and Self Determination
We will defend our freedom fighters

* To find out how you can participate in the movement to free political prisoners, please contact: Malcolm X Grassroots Movement: http://www.mxgm.org
* Jericho amnesty campaign: http://www.thejerichomovement.com
* Hands Off Assata campaign: http://www.handsoffassata.com
* Free the San Francisco 8 campaign: http://www.freethesf8.org

http://mxgm.org/web/jena-6/jena-resistance-and-self-defense.html

PART's Perspective:

Lives in the Balance

by Michael Novick, *Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror* ***(ARA-LA/PART)***

In "The Art of War," Chinese strategist Sun Tzu says, "So it is said that if you know your enemies and know yourself, you will win a hundred times in a hundred battles. If you only know yourself, but not your opponent, you win one and lose the next. If you do not know yourself or your enemy, you will always lose."

The sorry situation in the U.S. is that most people, even those involved in social struggles for peace, justice or equality, are unaware that they have an enemy. Unaware of our enemy's identity, we become our own worst enemies, tilting at windmills, wasting our efforts, and discouraging those we seek to organize. Petty "victories" in "campaigns," while the real battle is lost without ever being engaged, do nothing to give heart or confidence to the exploited and oppressed about having what it takes to really change the world.

Meanwhile, our rulers, exploiters and oppressors are cold-blooded and crystal clear about the enmity between themselves and us. They understand clearly that their wealth, their power, their very survival depends on constant maintenance of their ability to control the land and to dominate and incorporate us and our creative powers into their system. Long before Malcolm X, they operated on the basis of "By Any Means Necessary!"

Like Schwarzenegger's "Terminator" cyborg, they feel no remorse, and they will not stop ever ... unless they are stopped.

Unlike the Terminator, however, they* do *feel pain and fear.

What they fear above all else is that the people they are sucking the life out of will realize our own power, and start inflicting some pain on them. Out of their fear and vulnerability, they hatch schemes of surveillance, repression, incarceration, infiltration, provocation and every other technique designed to keep us divided, discouraged and demoralized. But every measure they take paradoxically has the potential of waking us up to the irreconcilable nature of our enmity with them, and to the grotesque and deadly nature of their parasitism.

This dynamic is playing itself out in a thousand quarters as you read this. In every arena, the battles of the Empire's attempt to maintain its domination are waged every day in a thousand ways -- and every battle is vital to them, and to us. As the Irish Republicans used to say to the British, "You have to be lucky every time; we only have to be lucky once." But that is only true if you are awake to the reality that you are at war, living in a world at war, every minute. Colonialism and capitalism ARE war -- not occasional, but permanent war. The Empire is at war with the planet and the people who inhabit it every minute of every day. This war occurs 24/7 in the schools, housing projects and the street, on the airwaves, across picket lines, and along assembly lines, as well as in the more obvious battle lines.

But unless we understand they are engaged in war without quarter against us, and adjust our own behavior accordingly, we will go on, suicidally losing battle after battle without even knowing we have been engaged in them.

The illusion of peace, and of the possibility of peaceful reconciliation, to which people with privilege are particularly susceptible, is one of the mainstays of the Empire. A second is the illusion of war, in which we fight among ourselves and punish each other, to which people who are oppressed are particularly susceptible. The third is the conscious buy-in or sell-out, in which people who have become aware of the Empire decide to ally with it against its enemies.

Let's look at how these dynamics are playing themselves out in a number of current arenas of struggle, in which our inability to see the true consequences of defeat is hobbling us. Time may no longer be on our side.

As George Jackson said, "Patience is not always a virtue. Sometimes it is a mask for cowardice."

MASS INCARCERATION AND POLITICAL REPRESSION

Nothing the "prison movement" has done in the last three decades has deterred in the least the Empire's intention of using the prisons as profit centers, slave labor camps, and mechanisms of social engineering and control. Having long surpassed the two million mark, and growing steadily past 2,250,000, imprisonment is increasing faster than ever, especially among women of color.

Simultaneously, political intelligence gathering and targeting of activists and dissidents is intensifying. Prisons within prisons have become the new norm. Roundups and jailing of the undocumented are being added to the sources feeding the "gulag," along with the drug war, criminalization of youth and poverty, thought crimes and other pretexts.

A self-critical examination of our failures is long overdue in the prison movement. Resources must be focused on fusing the struggles against political repression, police abuse of power, anti-immigrant round-ups and detentions, mass incarceration and the prison-industrial complex. They must be directed at the grassroots, at the people inside the prisons, camps, jails and lock-ups and their families, predominantly but not entirely people of color. The 10-20% of the current prison population that is European exceeds the entire prison population of 1975; they cannot be left to become fodder for the Aryan Brotherhood and other nazis, but must be engaged and involved in conscious international and multi-racial solidarity.

ENDLESS WAR AND ITS FUTURE

Despite the adage that "the generals are always preparing to fight the last war," the Empire is in fact quite farsightedly planning to fight the next "two-and-a-half wars," as Pentagon doctrine has it. The US war machine has its sights not merely on Iran, but on China. Yet the anti-war movement in the US barely addresses Afghanistan, accommodates to Democrats who proclaim Iran a threat to the Middle East, and hardly has on its radar screen US war planning for a coming confrontation with China.

Not to mention the existing and growing US military invention and proxy wars in Africa, the Philippines, Colombia and elsewhere. US military and economic planning (two sides of the same coin) call for "destructive reduction in capacity" as the way to deal with the looming crisis of over-production; and the capacity they intend to reduce is China's. You cannot understand what the US is up to in Iraq without recognizing that it has been an opening skirmish in a war with China.

Just so, you cannot understand US immigration policy without recognizing that the struggle of the Mexicans both in the current Mexican state and in the occupied parts of northern Mexico (known as the "Southwest") are a key destabilizing factor to the Empire. Mexico is now being primed for massive US military "assistance" as its struggle heats up right across the imposed border. The sealing and militarization of the border is a skirmish in that coming battle.

MILITARIZATION AT EVERY TURN

As the domestic and global Empire becomes ever more seamless, the militarization of every aspect of economic and social life proceeds apace, hand in glove with its privatization. The militarization (and privatization) of the border, of the police, of the schools, of the National Guard are being carried out in tandem, and will be extending soon to the workplace and other aspects of daily life. They must be opposed jointly, from the perspective that militarization has a target and an enemy. The use of educational, psychological, chemical and biological warfare has a target and it is we who are in the cross-hairs, especially the young generation coming up.

Militarization is not only guns. Police strategists refer to "community oriented policing," for example, as the domestic equivalent of psychological operations in the military. "Psy-Ops" are directed at the occupied population as well as at the enemy. Whether you are marked for manipulation as "people" or elimination as "enemy" depends on the stance you take towards the occupation.

Laws like the DREAM Act, providing an avenue to legalization of immigrants through military "service," and measures like requiring undocumented residents to register for Selective Service (the draft), are examples of how militarization in every sphere coincides with and reinforces the overall process. Bush's "solution" for New Orleans was to send in Blackwater. But to imagine these processes will be reversed by election of a Democrat as president is as futile as the hopes of those who voted for a Democratic legislature have already proven to be. Clinton and Janet Reno gave the biggest boost to the militarization of police and the border through technology transfer from the Pentagon to local law enforcement, and through the creation of the border fence and Operation Gatekeeper. Replacing Alberto Gonzales with another Attorney General will not even slow down the legitimization of torture, the criminalization of poverty or the immanence of martial law.

If the elections offer no hope or avenue for changing the conditions besetting us, what does? Independent direct action, deeply rooted communities of resistance in any and every area where the Empire is currently waging war against us. This is a fractal and holographic system – its contradictions, its oppressive and exploitative nature are evident identically in every part, on every corner and at any degree of magnification. If you wage survival struggles in any area – the environment, the schools, the media, housing, health care, against war, occupation, gentrification, slave labor -- you will come into inevitable conflict with the empire.

Engage that conflict with the understanding that it is war to the teeth, that compromise is impossible. Decent housing, effective schools, safe streets, environmental justice, racial reconciliation, and peace are all laudable goals. But they require the destruction of the Empire to achieve. The question to ask yourself in any struggle is: "How is this undermining the Empire? How is this building the capacity of the forces of liberation to fight for freedom? How is this opening the eyes and minds of those who identify with or as oppressors even while they are exploited and oppressed?"

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!

We have no more time to repeat the errors of the past. We must understand now that the problem is not a foreign policy or a domestic reform that can be changed, but a system that must be uprooted and replaced. There is no time for loyal opposition or other half-measures. Ecocide, femicide and genocide are the marching orders for an implacable enemy. If the Empire extends its lease on life another generation, the oceans will probably be unfit to support current marine life; massive detention and/or depopulation of oppressed people will become the order of the day. We cannot remain asleep or wallow in despair a moment longer. Only by recognizing our enmity with that system, our irreconcilable contradiction with the system of colonialism, capitalism and white supremacy, can we build the alliance of oppressed and exploited people necessary to defeat it.

During a lifetime in the struggle, I have been committed to the long view, to the intergenerational struggle, to the necessity of waging a patient battle from one generation to the next, understanding that no victory is irreversible. But with every passing year my sense of urgency has increased, as the intersecting political, military, economic, social and environmental crises and consequences of continued Empire become ever more apparent.

If the war continues one-sided, the damage to the planet and to human society will be incalculable and possibly irreversible.

Urgency does not mean foolhardiness. It means we cannot afford any more illusions. We must steadily, daily increase the fighting capacity of the forces of liberation, justice, sanity and environmental sustainability by every means at our disposal, while subverting and dismantling the weapons and powers of the Empire, in order to shift the balance of forces in our favor.

The essence of the revolutionary disillusionment that is required is the abandonment of white supremacy, neo-colonialism and the electoral farce. Only internationalist solidarity and deep-rooted direct action can turn the tide now.

Anti-war Air Force officer threatened with discharge

Now is the time for us to stand up and stand together

by
Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jr.

The power of our voices against the U.S. occupation of Iraq is reaching the top echelons of the military and the administration. Our government is persecuting Americans who speak out against the U.S. military presence in Iraq. The U.S. military has launched politicized attacks on its own military members and moral leaders who oppose the war to discredit their voices of dissent. We have seen them target Cpl. Adam Kokesh to stop him from exercising his freedom of speech, after risking his life in Fallujah, Iraq. We have seen them threaten Sgt. Liam Madden for publicly stating the legal fact that the U.S. invasion is a war crime according to the Nuremberg principles. They have targeted Cpl. Cloy Richards, a soldier put in the media spotlight when his mother Tina Richards worked to get him the health care he needs after returning from Iraq eighty percent disabled. These are not happenstance targets. These young men are leaders of the Iraq Veterans Against the War and they are speaking out in a strong and coordinated way. And now I have been targeted.

Who am I? Many of you know me as a reverend, an activist, an architect of Hip Hop politics and a freedom fighter, but I am also an Officer in the US Air Force Reserve. I have long been in the struggle for peace and freedom and I serve proudly as a leader of faith. I joined the military as part of the "poor peoples draft" - to help pay for my education. In May 2000 I was commissioned as an Officer in the US Air Force Reserve and was accepted into the Chaplain Candidates program. In 2002 I graduated from Howard University School of Divinity, Magna Cum Laude. I was ordained a Reverend and Elder in the Church of God in Christ shortly after my graduation and today I remain in good standing in the Church. In May 2003 I completed the Chaplain Candidates program, but I decided not to pursue a career as a Chaplain in the Air Force. I have been in the Air Force Reserve Individual Reserve program ever since.

On March 26 I received notice from the Air Force that they're taking action to honorably discharge me on the basis of "behavior …inconsistent with the interest of national security." Ironically, this letter arrived six days after I announced the launching of a national "Make Hip Hop Not War" Tour at a press conference on Capitol Hill. On July 12, 2007, when I leave Robbins Air Force Base after my discharge hearing, whether I remain an Officer or not, I will be a leader always, and evermore committed to ending this immoral war.

In February 2003 I felt the sense of urgency many felt to speak out in the lead-up to the invasion of Iraq. Even though I was only a Chaplain Candidate and a 2nd Lieutenant, when I had the opportunity to preach at Andrews AF Base, home of Air Force One, the message I preached was "Who Would Jesus Bomb?" Since then hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and thousands of Americans have lost their lives and we now face a state of permanent warfare in our world.

This moment in history is our generation's lunch-counter moment - Iraq is our Vietnam and New Orleans is our Birmingham. Our generation could be the generation to defeat racism, poverty and war, but only if we come together as people of conscience. In the movements of the 60's, solidarity among the civil rights movement and the anti-war movement was never truly achieved. As the "Hip Hop generation" - a generation where the sons and daughters of former slaves work side by side with the sons and daughters of former slave owners - we have the ability to bridge the gap and link movements for peace, justice, civil rights and the environment in true solidarity.

We will not make the world safer or achieve true national security by starting wars that put our humanity at risk. We're certainly not making our country safer by intimidating veterans who courageously speak out. Policies that address poverty, racism, climate change, the economy and jobs are at the core of national security. I will continue to speak out against the war, seek justice for Katrina survivors, fight against racism, struggle for equality and advocate for a healthy planet. I hardly think that this sort of behavior is "inconsistent with the interest of national security."

Brothers and sisters, opposition to this illegal war and occupation is not a cause – it's a response to a state of emergency. It's our urgent responsibility to stop this war. According to Psalms, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." I know it looks bad now and our hope seems to wane and sometimes we want to give up. But if we can all come together - black and white, brown and yellow, rich and poor, male and female, straight and gay - whether you still love this country or are withdrawn in anger, not only can we defeat this war and restore justice and democracy, there will once again be joy in the morning.

For Future Generations,
Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jr.

Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jr. is President of the Hip Hop Caucus. Donations to his legal defense can be made at: www.hiphopcaucus.org You can also mail a donation to: Hip Hop Caucus, 1112 16th St. NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036; 202.787.5256; info@hiphopcaucus.org

Security culture and anti-fascism

by Philly ARA

As anti-fascists, we must always be sure to be aware of our surroundings and the environment we're in. Though we often wish otherwise, not everyone views us in a favorable light and there are those who would do us harm if given the chance.

In this light, it's important to maintain a culture of security to ensure the safety of our selves, our work, and those around us. To that end, here are a few methods that will help maintain our work and safety. The following suggestions are not meant to make people paranoid, rather to make them cautious and aware. We must evolve in our methods if we are to succeed.

-Change your routines: If fascists are targeting you and have information on your whereabouts, it's important to try to catch them off guard. Leave home/work/school at different times, take different routes to wherever you're going. This does more than throw the fash off your regular schedule; it gives you a chance to become familiar with alternative routes and settings in your area.

-Be aware of people following you: It never hurts to glance in the rear-view mirror and see if someone has been behind you for more than a couple blocks. Nor does it hurt to stop in a convenience store and take a look at people standing by idly on the street. You must be prepared for the possibility of the fash dressing to blend in easily with the population at large.

-Keep informed on strange neighborhood activity: Ask a neighbor you trust if they've noticed new people coming around door to door asking for information or driving by slowly late at night, or generally acting shady.

-Loose talk costs lives: We all like to brag from time to time about our victories. Just don't do it in public. You never know who's listening. If you do discuss sensitive topics, do so in privacy and with those who can be vouched for.

-Use the buddy system whenever possible: If there's the slightest doubt of who can show up when you go out at night, bring a friend and legal means of protection. Make sure that buddy is on the same page and knows the possibilities of what could happen in a worst case scenario. Make sure that person is comfortable defending themselves if need be.

-Self-defense: Learn what legal methods of self-defense are permissible in your local area. Be knowledgeable about local laws concerning mace, stun guns, etc. Take self-defense classes by yourself or with a group of others. In the unfortunate situation of being in a physical confrontation, it's better safe than sorry. While some may denounce the use of pepper spray as cowardly, we aren't out to fight fair, we are fighting to win!

-Keep channels of communication open among comrades: It never hurts to call a comrade to check in and make sure they're all right. Keep track of the fash in your area. Make sure everyone knows where they drink, hang out, buy music, and those who provide them safe haven while knowing their beliefs. Nothing will hurt business more than outing someone as a racist sympathizer who hosts nazis and other scumbags.

-Reach out to other activist groups: Building bridges with like minded groups will bolster our numbers and provide help in the future. Chances are you'll also make friends in the process and maybe learn a thing or two along the way.

-Keep alert: During lulls in activity by the fash, it's easy for people to lose sight of the fact that they're still out there. Chances are they're waiting for us to be caught so off guard that we will never recover in the event of an unexpected resurgence of activity. Maintain a dialogue with other activists and those in the community so they know that the fash continue to lurk in the shadows and that it is always important to maintain a state of awareness.

Be aware of possible set-ups. Police have worked with fascists in a number of recent incidents to draw out, identify and arrest anti-fascists. Check out intel on Klan activities and approach them copwatch style with back-up and our own video.

Open Letter to the Left and the AIDS Movement:
Ships passing on our winding way to a new dawn

by Suzy Subways

[Note: I am a queer, white, HIV-negative person who uses female pronouns and has non-transgender privilege. These ideas are the result of conversations with many people, but I wrote this as an independent AIDS community journalist and a leftist, and I don't speak for any group. Many thanks to my mentors who gave me feedback yesterday! It has changed a lot.] [Excerpted.—*Ed.*]

The US Social Forum blew my mind, it grew my mind like a wild weed, it heard my voice and it rendered me inaudible-I talked and cheered and chanted so much that I couldn't speak above a whisper for days. It gave me a feeling like, the Left is finally getting its shit together. I got a sense that people of color-especially immigrants, indigenous people, women of color and queer people of color-were like, "the Left is ours," and were bringing the most innovative strategies and concepts to be seen in years, rocketing the whole thing into another dimension.

The speech by Andrea Smith of INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence at the plenary on Liberating Gender and Sexuality: Integrating Gender and Sexual Justice Across Our Movements - and the audience of hundreds' overwhelming response to it-was one of the most inspiring moments of my life. Not only did Smith question the domestic violence movement's reliance on the state to protect us, her organization's work offers all our movements the building blocks of an alternative.

I've been an activist for 17 years (mostly on access to higher education and queer and AIDS issues), and I feel like this is what many of us have been hoping for, yet not daring to imagine. Could the Left really be shedding its massive layers of racism, sexism, and homophobia? But the most inspiring moments always leave room for us to grow. This is a moment of great possibility for the AIDS movement and the Left. I won't make a list of reasons why the AIDS movement had moments of feeling marginalized at the USSF, but to illustrate this, I will say that HIV/AIDS was not mentioned once at the plenary on gender and sexuality.

For those of us in the AIDS movement, this kind of silence tugs at old wounds, because Reagan did not say "AIDS" out loud until 1987, by which time an average of nine Americans had died of AIDS for every day that he had been in office. Now, we have lifesaving medicines in the US and other rich countries, but about 8,500 people around the world die of AIDS every day, and according to the NAACP, every day 72 African Americans contract HIV.

My goal with this letter is to point toward the light the Left offers the AIDS movement now, and ways the Left can learn from the AIDS movement now. The Social Forum illuminates both, because without women of color at the center, neither will ever find its way-and without the innovative new strategies emerging now, we would all just be talking.

Life after nonprofits

INCITE's second book, The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: Beyond the Non-Profit Industrial Complex, sold out all copies at the Forum, and its panel by the same name filled up so quickly that organizers had to post a sign on the door saying, "Please do not open - Fire Hazard!"-and still people squeezed in. Southerners on New Ground (SONG, a multiracial LGBT/queer group) held a workshop where participants also discussed the limits of the 501c3 model (for example, competition for funding between community groups; letting funders set your agenda; allowing college graduates to serve as front lines in communities they know nothing about or are themselves gentrifying; big nonprofits setting movement goals; grassroots groups not being taken seriously; self-perpetuation being valued over service and honesty, etc.) and exciting new ways to do what SONG called "free organizing." There were also "hybrid models," with some aspects of both the 501c3 and the free, such as a working board of directors with no staff, or having members vote on organizational decisions and pay dues. (For questions to ask yourself and help stimulate more ideas, see http://www.southernersonnewground.org/?p=53)

In the AIDS movement, we know how the move from street action to institution-building meant that we had built the capacity to provide lifesaving services to our communities. Plus, AIDS organizations are the biggest employer of LGBT people in the US-and in some places, a provider of jobs to many people in our community who have a hard time finding work in a discriminatory environment due to their experience with prison, homelessness, drug use, or sex work, or because they're trans or gender non-conforming or living with HIV.

But our institutions are now turning on their creators-people living with HIV-and turning them into passive "consumers" of services, as if your local AIDS service organization were the local mall and HIV is no longer political. And "AIDS, Inc." took us off the streets, cooled off our activism. Who among us hasn't feared losing our jobs if we speak at that demo, or been told protests are a relic from the past?

SONG members pointed out that whether or not we choose to find new ways of serving and organizing our communities, we'll be forced to anyway, because our community-based nonprofits are dying. This especially speaks to the AIDS movement. Small HIV prevention and support organizations that Black, Latino, gay and other communities started 20 years ago are closing their doors all over the country because the federal money is being cut back to just cover medical care and HIV testing, not vital programs like condom distribution, street outreach, counseling, buddy programs, language interpretation, and housing. (For more info see http://www.poz.com/articles/401_11463.shtml)

The most inspiring and transformative HIV/AIDS program I've ever witnessed, Philadelphia's TEACH Outside, has been on the chopping block several times this year. Run by John Bell, who was a leader in ACT UP for years and is an HIV positive, African American Vietnam vet in recovery who spent years in prison, TEACH Outside is a class for people living with HIV who are newly released from incarceration. John Bell teaches how to live healthy with HIV and strategies for dealing with life on the outside, mentors students in activism, and tells them to call him anytime-but the biggest challenge for students is dealing with the double stigma of prison and HIV. I asked him once if the program is more than just a class, and he said, "It has to be. Because people aren't just unfeeling beings. Even though people have been incarcerated they're still human beings. To allow that person to become a working member of society, we're going to have to actually address the totality of their being. The emotional side, the spiritual side, the intellectual side."

Protecting each other

We can also learn new ways to protect our communities from violence. At another Social Forum panel, the Young Women's Empowerment Project (a youth leadership organization grounded in harm reduction and social justice organizing by and for girls and young women ages 12-23 impacted by the sex trade and street economies) from Chicago talked about defending each other from street violence without relying on the police, who offer their own forms of violence.

Taking inspiration from each other's movements

In the HIV/AIDS movement, we need to make sure that women of color and queer people of color are at the center, and also that HIV positive people are at the center. We need to take inspiration from this moment in the Left and be reminded that we can't afford to compromise on taking the time to build new leadership among people directly affected by the issues, even when our time is urgently demanded to push for policy that can save millions of lives around the world. A strong movement is a social force that shifts policy in its wake or renders government decisions irrelevant by taking care of its own community's needs.

We also need for the Left to understand that our leaders are still dying. And it's mostly the people of color in our movement who are dying, for many reasons related to intersecting forms of oppression, but also because people with both HIV and hepatitis C have even more complex health challenges and treatment options than those with HIV alone. In other words, neither the Left nor the AIDS movement can afford to sleep on the issue of hepatitis C.

AIDS is now the leading cause of death among Black women aged 25 to 34. Nearly half of Black men who have sex with men are HIV positive. I'm not saying that people with HIV aren't living full, healthy lives, with stigma being their most pressing HIV-related problem. But ACT UP Philly still has too many funerals. But it's also a movement full of life. Have you ever been to a global AIDS conference? The Zapatistas' Other Campaign (La Otra Campagna) was there last summer in Toronto. Korean activists were marching through the conference site against the impending US-Korea Free Trade Agreement. South Africans demanded treatment, Indian activists in bright colors chanted, "Big Pharma - Quit India!" and a Russian activist speaking at the closing plenary said, "Down with the imperialism of the pharmaceutical companies!" It was like the Social Forum, without the standing ovation (activists had to demand that people with AIDS be allowed to speak at the global AIDS conference).

The AIDS movement at its best links together some of the most pressing issues of our time: homelessness, prison, the war on drugs, gender, sexuality, immigration, and displacement.

But if you want to tackle one thing, I'd say the Left can start with stamping out any tendencies toward HIV denialism, the idea that HIV does not really cause AIDS. While handing out flyers for the AIDS march at the Social Forum, my friend encountered some folks who said things like, "Well, if they would just stop taking those medicines that make them sick...." These comments were fairly insulting to my friend, who is HIV positive. This foolishness would not take root in the Left without our (the Left's) willingness to let our intelligent distrust of pharmaceutical companies go uncomplicated by any understanding of the privilege many of us experience-not having to deal with HIV, and not living in communities whose health is compromised in so many ways by systemic racism, poverty, homophobia and transphobia. For more information about HIV denialism, please see AIDSTruth.org or the website of South Africa's Treatment Action Campaign

A moment of possibilities

Partly to push visibility of AIDS issues in the Left, and in the tradition of marches at the global AIDS conference, AIDS activists at the Social Forum decided to march up from the basement of the Atlanta Civic Center, through the lobby filled with people milling around t-shirts and literature, out the doors and past the tables outside. It was a fun, chaotic moment that people responded to with excitement and support. We stopped across from the Health Tent, where among the activists who joined us was Panama Vicente Alba, a longtime New York City labor and police brutality activist and former Young Lords Party member. I was thrilled and surprised to see him get on the mic (at the invitation of NYCAHN), because I'd never thought of him as an AIDS activist. NYCAHN's Jennifer Flynn enlightened me to the fact that Panama has been an AIDS activist for more than 15 years. "Needle exchange exists in the Bronx because of Panama," she said, and I was struck by how within my own mind I have such a separation between my lefty world and my AIDS activist world that it has gotten me to where I'm putting people into boxes. Jennifer also pointed out that the Young Lords were well known for tackling tuberculosis, and for their understanding of how government neglect in communities of color leads to epidemics.

I had slept on the fact of Panama's deep involvement with the campaign to demand HIV treatment for people on waiting lists in Puerto Rico. He had been in New Orleans at the HIV Prevention Leadership Summit in May, one of the activists whose graceful and somber protest interrupted a Bush administration speaker to draw attention to the crisis in Puerto Rico. "We know that more than a thousand people are on waiting lists for HIV medicines," Panama told me. "But the mayor of San Juan said nobody died. As long as Puerto Rico is a colony of the U.S., this is the political reality that exists. We need a third party, outside the colonial government, to allocate the funds." The moment Panama united the AIDS movement and the Left was for me a moment of the clouds parting and the stars emerging to show our ships the way forward. Let's take the opportunity now, with the excitement the Social Forum has hopefully instilled in us, to chart our courses a little closer together, share our stories, and really listen to each other.

PART's PERSPECTIVE: Build Our Movements' Strengths to Overcome Weaknesses; Attack the Empire's Weaknesses to Overcome Its Strengths

by Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)

As economic conditions worsen and the dollar plummets, the inability of the Empire's economic, social and political institutions to deal with the system's crises become more evident. Even as tens of thousands face foreclosure and eviction around the country, homeowners and renters in devastated New Orleans are driven callously into homelessness. The already-neutered and discredited corporate media have been consolidated into still-fewer hands by FCC fiat. The shameless and spineless Democrats in Congress have ratified torture at the Justice Dept. and given Bush all he asks for Iraq and Afghanistan, tailing even the CIA on Iran. Internationally, the environmental conference in Bali and the 'peace process' gathering at Annapolis underscore the inability of the US to impose its will, resolve its contradictions or relieve the agonies it visits on oppressed people and the exploited planet.

Like a desperate wounded beast, the Empire is still capable of inflicting damage. Relying increasingly on coercion, repression and military means, it thinks it can torture, bomb or intimidate people to obtain the consent it requires. Such methods are only effective to the extent that the people do not recognize them as a sign of weakness, not strength.

The key to moving forward for the movements for decolonization and liberation is to recognize the dialectic that operates between the oppressor and the oppressed, between the exploiter and the exploited. Exactly to the extent that we can use our own strengths – numbers, creativity, uncompromising solidarity, imagination, love, science – to overcome our weaknesses – racism, sexism, elitism, pacifism, identification with the oppressor – to that same extent we become capable of using the force of our resistance to exploit the Empire's weaknesses. Only those who dare to struggle have a chance to win.

The State's reliance on incarceration creates a core of people, extending beyond the prison walls to prisoner families, parolees and probationers with a potential for collective struggle; if only the element of consciousness can unlock the mental chains that are more powerful than physical ones. The US transformation into a debtor state and mercenary military apparatus depends on a poverty draft and a succession of increasingly unpopular and unjustifiable missions. But again, exploiting that weakness requires cohesion and audacity among GI resisters in the ranks. Prisoners, GIs, high school and community college students, street youth, young immigrant workers all need solidarity from those outside the prisons, military and colonial education institutions; and we all need a sense of our own strength, our capacity to fight back and to exercise power. We need to shift our mental construct that assumes the might and wealth of the rulers are immutable, to one that recognizes the riches and power are extracted from the people and the planet and are ours to reclaim. We cannot concede the legitimacy of our rulers' system or accept their self-proclaimed monopoly on the use of force. Rather, through direct action to meet essential human needs that the system is incapable of satisfying, through defending our gains, through the full range of resistance ranging from strikes, boycotts, to cultural renewal we can begin to reorient the balance of power decisively in our favor.

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TURNING THE TIDE

Decolonization, Demilitarization, Democratization

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FREE THE BLACK RIDERS

21st anniversary year of ARA-LA/PART
21st year of publication of Turning the Tide

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Three leading members of the Black Riders Liberation Party, General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out) and Comrades Stress and Aryana Shakur, have been indicted and arrested on charges of a conspiracy to possess automatic weapons and attempted possession of a machine gun, in a b.s. set-up and entrapment case. They are being held on bail of half a million (Aryana) to a million dollars apiece (T.A.C.O. and Stress). The D.A. is claiming the Riders were going to enter and shoot up various LAPD stations, but has brought no such charges. He is only using the unsubstantiated allegation as the basis for justifying the raids, undercover cops and surveillance directed at the BRLP. Despite the heavy bail and serious charges, neither the D.A. nor the L.A.P.D. has made any public statements about the case. This reflects the weak and baseless nature of their case, but also their attempt to disrupt the Party by locking up its leaders, attempting to bury them in prison without arousing a public clamor or base of support for the BRLP. It is vital that we present a strong, community based opposition to these nefarious efforts by the LAPD and District Attorney's office to criminalize Black youth and revolutionary politics.

The D.A. sought and obtained a gang enhancement on the charges, even though the undercover officer testified under cross-examination that the BRLP in fact claimed no territory, bore no identifying gang-style tattoos, and in fact resembled the Black Panther Party! The cop acknowledged under oath that the Black Riders were proud Africans, advocates of Black unity, and avowed communists! This testimony makes clear the political nature of the charges and the whole case. The BRLP have been the targets of police harassment and set-ups for their entire 11-year history. But the recent series of busts and high-power raids have taken place in the context of the BRLP popularizing the case of the San Francisco Eight (former Black Panther Party members and associates) at a street level in Los Angeles. The BRLP has also been building Black-Brown unity and leading Black resistance against the racist Minutemen. Combined with the effectiveness of their "Watch-a-Pig" programs and their peace-making efforts and political education with Bloods and Crips street organization members, these successes brought the BRLP under the cross-hairs of the highly-political repressive apparatus of the LAPD. Based on an LAPD affidavit and warrant, LA and San Bernardino sheriffs' deputies raided a home in August out in Highland CA. The raid, which involved a huge number of deputies as well as federal agents, armored personnel carriers, and a battering ram, now appears to have been based on the same unsubstantiated allegations of a BRLP "plot" to shoot up LA police stations.

We cannot allow the repressive forces of the state to carry out their plan to lock up the leaders of the BRLP and roll up the party! People are being mobilized to court for the next appearances. The BRLP also needs additional legal assistance, funds to help with court costs and other defense efforts, and other forms of community support. Another planning meeting will be held shortly. Contact the BRLP at PO Box 8297, Los Angeles CA 90008.—*Editor.*

Free the Black Riders!
The Black Movement is Under Attack!

By
Nefertari Shakur, ***Black Riders Liberation Party***

On November 26, 2007 the leader of the Black Riders Liberation Party, General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out), was arrested in a roll-up raid on our Black Power van by police officers in Pinole, CA (a city near Oakland). When asked for the cause of this illegal search and raid, Pinole officers claimed that "Pinole doesn't have any Black Panthers in the area." General T.A.C.O. was then arrested and snatched by local police based on a Los Angeles arrest warrant on charges of "conspiracy to possess a machine gun," in an alleged plot to shoot up Los Angeles police stations.

He is now being held under a "keep away" order in solitary confinement in the "high power" security section of the L.A. men's jail on $1,000,000 (one million dollars) bail.

BRLP Chief of Staff Nadia Shakur was also arrested in Pinole, and sent to jail in San Bernardino, CA. This was based on a previously-dropped charge of illegal weapons possession. (This was connected to an illegal raid in August of a home in Highland, CA. San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies, Los Angeles sheriff's deputies and federal agents showed up with armored personnel carriers, a battering ram, S.W.A.T. [Special Weapons and Tactics] team, bomb squad and enough cops to seal off four square blocks around the house.) She is now being held in San Bernardino with bail set at $75,000, and has a court date of January 9 for sentencing, on a plea bargain, to 180 days in San Bernardino County Jail.

Simultaneously in Los Angeles, Comrades Stress and Aryana Shakur were also arrested on the same charges as General T.A.C.O., with bail also set at $1,000,000 for Stress and $500,000 for Aryana. Comrade Aryana, our Minister of Information and a hard-line Black Rider soldier who has served the people for the past 11 years, has been through severe repression over the years due to her commitment to making revolution possible for all people in the world. In the illegal August raid, her son Jacori was kidnapped by the police and placed in foster care for the second time in three years. Instead of laughing innocently and freely playing like other kids his age, Jacori has had to suffer pounding on the door by the police in the middle of the night, screams of terror, the repeated arrest of his parents, not to mention S.W.A.T. team firearms pointed at his small seven-year-old body. Although Aryana's motherhood has been viciously stripped from her once again, she will remain strong for her people and continue to empower and defend all mothers and children against this heartless enemy.

All this has been done by the racist pig power structure in order to try to stop our organization's revolutionary expansion and influence in Amerikkka.

General T.A.C.O. is a former gang member who created the Black Riders Liberation Party in 1996 in the Youth Training Service's prison college class along with other prisoners. He has worked hard to bring about Black self-determination and African pride to people who have been robbed of most of their dignity and identity by racist white people and the pig power structure. Because General T.A.C.O. has successfully transformed some of the most violent and self-destructive youth into full-blown revolutionary consciousness under the teachings, values and practices of African inter-communalism, he has suffered numerous raids, illegal searches and arrests, brutal confrontations, time in prison and jail, and the kidnapping of family members. This has all been in an attempt to stop his revolutionary leadership from resurrecting the spirit of the Black community.

General T.A.C.O. has sacrificed everything to make revolution a possibility and reality in the poverty-stricken gang injunctions of Amerikkka. He alone has dared to believe that he could offer the community a permanent political vehicle that would serve their needs and advocate their interests. General T.A.C.O.'s charge for conspiracy, or basically a "thought crime," has been a plot by this racist government's anti-human USA PATRIOT Act and fake Homeland Security counter-terrorism plans, in order to silence the leader of the Black Liberation Movement. This plot will never succeed.

Other comrades have also been targeted and arrested on trumped-up charges by the L.A.P.D. Comrade Kambui Sadiki, our Minister of Defense, was brutally jumped out on by the L.A.P.D. while politically educating the community on Rodeo and Crenshaw. He is now doing time for "trespassing." Many other comrades are also going to trial for numerous charges made up by the pigs.

The Black Riders have proven to be a sign of Black empowerment in their willingness to die defending the people against police terrorism. The BRLP stands against white racist laws and threats in the community. In pushing our "Watch-A-Pig" program, our soldiers and organization have gone through severe repression. The program consists of patrolling the police with law booklets, video cameras, Black karate skills, military uniforms and berets, and other legal weapons, while educating the people on their self-defense rights, and offering our services to people who need a witness against the police in a lawsuit.

A Black Rider has to cope with the life-threatening reality of being hunted and spied upon by federal agents, and being illegally threatened, searched and arrested by racist police officers every day, in order to defend, politically educate, empower and unite our community. Black revolutionaries have always been the most doomed men and women and have always received the most repression. Look at the assassinations of Fred Hampton, Bobby Hutton, Bunchy Carter and John Huggins, to name just a few. Look at the targeting of the Black Panther Party as "the greatest threat to the internal security of the U.S."

The whole idea of the Watch-A-Pig program is to show the people that resistance is possible. We patrol the pigs at random and link it with our other daily movements doing other dangerous political work like trying to educate and raise the African consciousness of young Black people on the street-corners. The goal is to stop tribalism and black-on-black violence, and create a Black commune where young brothers and sisters can be fed, clothed, educated, militarily trained. There they can be surrounded in a revolutionary African environment, away from the brainwashing capitalist institutions that prey on our youth and trap them into self-destructive mentalities, behaviors and practices.

The racist L.A.P.D. and media have attempted to discredit our organization's efforts by labelling us as a "black terrorist gang," and claiming that we promote violence and racism and disturb the "peace" of the community. But they won't tell you that the first black gangs were created in self-defense against white racist violence in the northern and western states that didn't want to accept the new integration laws. They also won't tell you that it was the police and federal/CIA agents who fueled the Bloods and the Crips and the entire Black community with crack cocaine and military weapons in the 1980s to stop the consciousness that the Black Panther Party had brought in the '60s and '70s.

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The head of the Panther's L.A. chapter, Bunchy Carter, created the Crips, which stood for Clandestine Revolution in Progress. This led to COINTELPRO (the FBI Counter-Intelligence PROgram) assassinating him, and to the split of his organization, leading to the birth of the Bloods, which originally stood for Bloodline of Our Descent. Black gangs were created under the values of respect, honor and protection of the community, like the tribes in Africa. They were a place for black people to recreate and practice their unique culture, and honor their African history because all these had been robbed during slavery.

Once we understood the true history of the Black Panther Party and the creation of the Bloods and Crips, we wanted to bring back their teachings and give the people the truth on how their history developed into what it is today. Our job is to unite Bloods and Crips to make them understand that we are not each other's enemy. The real enemy is this fascist government, whose main job is make sure our communities remain divided Blood against Crip, young against old, light skin against dark skin, males against females, middle class against lower class, brother against brother, sister against sister so that we never rise up to change the system that oppresses us.

The racist police get away with acting like an imperialist occupying army. They congest the black ghettoes of Amerikkka and prey on our youth with their regular and massive sweeps, raids, illegal and humiliating public searches and arrests, harassment, torture, terror, brutal beatings, drive-by shootings, routine stop-and-frisks, verbal abuse, and last but most certainly not least, their murders of our youth passed through the fascist judicial system as "justifiable homicide." Who are the real gang-bangers here?

There can be on peace until they decide to change the conditions that create unemployment, poor housing, brainwashing education, unaffordable health care, and no real political or economic power in our communities. We have no power to enact racism, or to control and exploit others with racist practices, so we can never be called racists. If the slave who is being whipped by the slavemaster snatches the whip from the master's hand and uses it against him, it is not racism it is self-determination!

Because of the success of our Watch-A-Pig Program and the positive response from the people, we have been able to reduce police brutality in the community, and also have been able to lower the number of incidents of criminal gang violence by 50%, as stated in a recent article in the Los Angeles Times. We have also been able to expand our programs all throughout Southern California in the cities of Watts, Compton, South Central, Inglewood and Long Beach. The most recent raid and arrest of our General was carried out by Bay Area pig forces to prevent our expansion and resurrection of the revolutionary spirit in the birthplace of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, Oakland. But we refuse to be manipulated and demoralized by this racist government.

We no longer practice patience and turning the other cheek, because it has only proven to be a criminal philosophy for our people to keep us in slavery. We assert the right to self-defense by any means necessary, and reserve the right of maximum retaliation against our racist oppressors, no matter what the odds are against us.

The arrest and kidnapping of our General and other comrades will not stop our patrols, and we will continue to expose the police as coward-ass busters with badges, acting under color of law. As our General says, "When the enemy strikes out at you blindly, crushing you right and left if he possibly can, then you know you are doing everything right!"

We know now, more than ever before, that the will of the people is greater than the technology and repression of those who are against the interests of the people. The second Black Revolution has come, and it will only stop when total freedom is had!

Free the Black Riders! Free General T.A.C.O.!
Free the SF8 and All Our Political Prisoners!
The Racist Dog Policeman Must Immediately Withdraw
from Our Community or Face the Wrath of an Armed People!
He who does not fear the death of a thousand cuts will unseat the Emperor!
Black Guerrilla Power to Those Who Do Not Fear Freedom!
Black Power Love to All Community Supporters!

Send donations to the Black Riders Liberation Party to:
Black Riders, P.O. Box 8297, Los Angeles CA 90008

Note: A meeting of the Jericho Amnesty Coalition to Free All Political Prisoners will take place Sunday, January 13 at 1:00 PM; call 310-495-0299 for more information. A Free the Black Riders Defense Campaign is also being established to stop the railroad and free the Black Riders. Write the BRLP at PO Box 8297, Los Angeles, CA 90008 for more information about how you can get involved.

Echoes of a Freedom Struggle (a Book Review)

Written and copyright (c) 2007 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

There has been, in the last 30 years, a kind of cottage industry of civil rights histories, works written by folks recounting the heroic, and ostensibly successful black freedom movement, most centered around the life, and martyrdom of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The arc of those tales told is that there was once a vast evil called "segregation" which was overcome by the goodness, light, and sacrifice of people like Rev. Dr. King. Such a tale is comforting, and also popular, for it reaffirms a safe legend about America, and as such, as it is self-congratulatory, it sells. Yet, as always, this was not the whole story, as shown by a growing number of works on the Black Liberation Movement (BLM).

Lifetime liberationist and later scholar Muhammad Ahmad (f/k/a Max Stanford,Jr.) has given us all a unique and revealing look at this movement, often told from the inside. In his new book, *We Will Return in the Whirlwind: Black Radical Organizations, 1960-1975*, (Chicago, IL: Kerr Pub., 2007) Ahmad tells us of the formative years, apex of development, and the fall of several radical and revolutionary groups: the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM) , the Black Panther Party (BPP), and the League of Revolutionary Black Workers (LRBW). As he was involved in the formation of several of these groups, his accounts are rich in historical detail. For today's young activists, and especially for those who aspire to learn about the accomplishments and failures of the Black liberation movement, this work is invaluable.

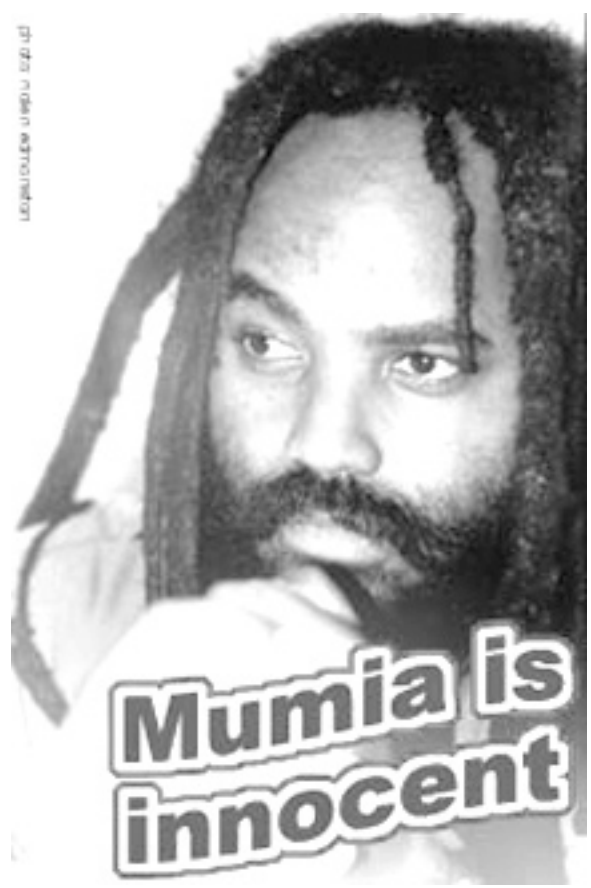
Not surprisingly, many of the movements he examines (with the notable exception of the LRBW) had their origins in the Black student movement (either high school or college).

Early in his work he cites the singular insight of revolutionary activist and organizer Grace Boggs, for an idea that would echo through almost all those movements - the failure to reach young people:

"The main weakness of the Black left has been its inability to focus on the youth, who are burdened by a very high unemployment rate and are targeted by the drug culture. Until the divorcement of the Black left from the youths is addressed there is likely to be no real advance in Black radicalism." p.22

I learned a great deal from Dr. Ahmad's work, not just on RAM, and the League of Revolutionary Black Workers, but also of the role of key, 'organic' intellectuals and organizers, like Queen Mother Audley Moore (1898-1997). She played a central role in educating Ahmad when he was a young RAM activist. His recollection of his initial fear of Moore rings clear and true, when we recall how popular culture taught us about the world around us:

"Wanda Marshall [another RAM activist} and I had been afraid of Queen Mother, because of anti-communism red-baiting among progressive people. Though I read some Marx, Lenin, and a little of Trotsky, I still had the sting of anti-communism in me. Wanda would say, "you know communists can brainwash you." When the RAM cadre along with others would go over to Queen Mother's house, attending "Free Mae Mallory" meetings, we would be in the hall talking before breaking up. Queen Mother would interrupt the discussion, point at me, and would say, "you, darling, you're the one I want." This would scare the "living daylights" out of me, and I would promptly leave.



Queen Mother would say to me before I left, 'If you ever want to come by, the front window of my study is open: just raise it and come on in.'" p.113

One day, while traveling from North to West Philly, he did just that, and discovered a gold mine of articles, rare books, and other information that blew his mind. When Queen Mother found him several hours later, he was full of questions, which she patiently answered and explained. It turned out that she was a key activist in half a dozen social movements, going back decades, and she knew a great deal from both her life, and her studies.

She taught him about Black nationalism, socialism, history, and a wealth of other subjects. Because she was deeply knowledgeable and dedicated to the Black freedom struggle, she became an adviser to RAM.

Ahmad's work is a valuable addition to the growing literature on a radical movement that rarely gets play, especially positive play, in the corporate media. Published by Chicago's famed Kerr Publishing (the home of Marxist, Wobbly, and surrealist literature), Ahmad adds to our understanding of movements that made a difference in the lives of tens of thousands of African Americans during the 1960s, and '70s.

It is a treasure trove that should open the eyes of many young people, who want to learn how it was to fight the world's mightiest empire, from within.

Lakotah Unilateral Withdrawal from All Agreements and Treaties with the United States of America

We as the freedom loving Lakotah People are the predecessor sovereign of Dakota Territory as evidenced by the Treaties with the United States Government, including, but not limited to, the Treaty of 1851 and the Treaty of 1868 at Fort Laramie.

Lakotah, formally and unilaterally withdraws from all agreements and treaties imposed by the United States Government on the Lakotah People.

Lakotah , and the population therein, have waited for at least 155 years for the United States of America to adhere to the provisions of the above referenced treaties. The continuing violations of these treaties' terms have resulted in the near annihilation of our people physically, spiritually, and culturally.

Lakotah rejects United States Termination By Appropriation policy from 1871 to the present.

In addition, the evidence of gross violations of the above referenced treaties are listed herein. Lakotah encourages the United States of America, through its Government, to enter into dialogue with Lakotah regarding the boundaries, the land and the resources therein. Please contact the Lakotah Interests Section, Naomi Archer, at (828) 230-1404 or info@Lakotafreedom.com.

Should the United States and its subordinate governments choose not to act in good faith concerning the rebirth of our nation, we hereby advise the United States Government that Lakotah will begin to administer liens against real estate transactions within the five state area of Lakotah.

Lakotah, through its government, appointed the following representatives to withdraw from all the treaties with the United States of America based on the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties entered into force in 1980 and the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007:

Teghiya Kte Heretofore known as Gary Rowland
Canupa Gluha Mani Heretofore known as Duane Martin Sr.
Oyate Wacinyapin Heretofore known as Russell Means
Mni yuha Najin Win Heretofore known as Phyllis Young

Lakota, 444 Crazy Horse Drive,
P.O. Box 99; Porcupine, SD 57772
www.LakotaFreedom.com

Lakotah Political and Diplomatic Relations with the United States of America

The first official contacts between Lakotah and the government of the United States of America began in earnest after the United States conducted a commercial transaction with France, commonly known as the Louisiana Purchase, in 1803. Prior to that time, Lakotah exercised complete and unfettered freedom and independence in their territory. According to the fantasy of United States' history, the Louisiana Purchase was a purported sale by France to the United States of 530 million acres (2.1 million sq.km.) for $15 million. Part of this sale included the territory of Lakotah who, of course never had knowledge of, nor gave consent to, the sale of their national territory.

The first treaty between the U.S. and any segment of Lakotah occurred in 1805, , and various other treaties of "peace and friendship," between Lakotah and the U.S. As citizens of the U.S. began to invade and encroach on the territory of Lakotah in increasing numbers, tensions and violence erupted. To prevent full-scale war, the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 was requested by the U.S., to allow a transportation route through Lakotah territory. The treaty did not impair the sovereignty or the independence of Lakotah. In fact, the treaty expressly recognized Lakotah as an independent nation, and the treaty respected "all national business" of Lakotah.
After repeated violations by the United States of the 1851 Treaty, warfare broke out between Lakotah and the U.S. Lakotah defeated the U.S. in the so-called "Red Cloud War," leading to the U.S. to call for another treaty conference at Fort Laramie. The second treaty agreed for the U.S. to abandon the Bozeman Road, and the accompanying military forts that had been built along it, and promised to keep U.S. troops and settlers out of Lakotah territory.

Almost immediately, the U.S. began violating terms of the treaty, allowing railroad and mining interests to trespass and steal Lakotah resources and territory. In 1874, the infamous U.S. military commander, George Custer, led an invasion of the most sacred part of Lakotah territory, the Paha Sapa (Black Hills), prompting an invasion of gold seekers, and provoking another war between the U.S. and Lakotah. As a result of the war, Lakotah territory was illegally occupied by the U.S., and billions of dollars of natural resources have been stolen from the occupied territories of Lakotah.

The United States has engaged in multiple military, legal and political strategies for more than a century to deny Lakotah our right to freedom and self-determination. In 1876-77, in violations of the treaties that it had signed with Lakotah, the U.S. engaged in a sell-or-starve policy to coerce Lakotah to sell our national homeland. Lakotah refused, and has consistently refused to the present time.

In 1871, the U.S. decided no longer to enter into treaties with indigenous nations, but the U.S. treaty-ending legislation made explicit that the new policy of the United States would in no way impair or limit those treaties already in force between indigenous nations and the U.S. Lakotah have consistently relied on the sanctity of the treaty between the U.S. and Lakotah.

As mentioned above, the United States has consistently violated the treaties between Lakotah and the U.S., resulting in the loss of life, resources, and territory for Lakotah. Although the United States was willing to take the benefit of its bargain (i.e., territory and natural resources) in signing treaties with Lakotah, it was almost immediately unwilling to respect the mutual bargain to the Lakotah. The U.S. began to use U.S. law and policy to attempt to diminish the political, economic and cultural freedom of Lakotah. After

Lakota representatives issue declaration of continuing independence.

signing the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, the U.S. allowed its military, and its civilian citizens to invade Lakotah territory to steal gold, silver and other natural resources. The U.S. unilaterally violated the 1868 Treaty throughout the 1870s and 1880s by coercing alterations in the Treaty onto Lakotah, without the required 2/3 agreement of Lakotah, as required in the Treaty.

Although the U.S. Supreme Court recognized the ongoing freedom and independence of Lakotah in the landmark case of Ex Parte Crow Dog (1883), two years later, the U.S. Congress attempted to steal Lakotah independence through the passage of the Major Crimes Act, which unilaterally extended U.S. criminal jurisdiction into Lakotah territory. These actions were followed by more arrogant actions of the United States, culminating in the shocking Supreme Court Case of Lone Wolf v. Hitchcock (1903). Although Lone Wolf involved the Kiowa and Comanche Nations in what is now the State of Oklahoma, its impact adversely affected Lakotah. In Lone Wolf, the United States not only said that it could violate, change or abrogate treaties with Indian nations unilaterally, but it also said that the U.S. Congress possesses plenary (absolute) power to legislate in any way in indigenous affairs without the consent or consideration of indigenous nations.

By extension, Lone Wolf has been used to violate hundreds of treaties between the U.S. and indigenous peoples, including Lakotah. Through the operation of Lone Wolf, the U.S. stole the sacred Black Hills, allowed the mining of billions of dollars of gold from them, admitted that the Black Hills were taken in violation of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, and then offered to compensate Lakotah at 1874 land values. Lakotah have, to this day, rejected the offer of payment, and continue to insist on the return of the Paha Sapa (Black Hills).

An overview of violations follows:
• Homestead Acts • Allotment Acts • Citizenship Act forcing US citizenship upon all American Indians • Indian Reorganization Act a.k.a. Howard Wheeler Act (the first Apartheid Act) • Forced relocation during the decades of the 1950's-60's.
• Supreme Court decision disallowing our religions.
• Even though we are citizens of the United States of America, we are denied protections of the United States Constitution while living on Indian reservations, etc., etc., etc.

The operation of the United States in the nefarious ways outlined above are a violation, not only of the sovereignty and independence of Lakotah, not only of the solemn treaty signed between the U.S. and Lakotah, but it is a violation of the fundamental law of the United States itself. Article Six of the United States Constitution explicitly states that treaties signed by the United States are the supreme law of the land, and must be respected by every court and by every lawmaker, as such.

For more than a year and a half prior to this December announcement, Lakota delegates have been meeting with the traditional treaty councils of Lakota to build critical mass for this action. In the face of the colonial apartheid conditions imposed on Lakota people, the withdrawal from the U.S. Treaties is necessary. These conditions have been devastating:

Lakota men have a life expectancy of less than 44 years, lowest of any country in the World (excluding AIDS) including Haiti. Lakota death rate is the highest in the United States. The Lakota infant mortality rate is 300% more than the U.S. average. More than half the Reservation's adults battle addiction and disease. The tuberculosis rate on Lakota reservations is approximately 800% higher than the U.S national average. Alcoholism affects 8 in 10 families. Median income is approximately $2,600 to $3,500 per year. One-third of the homes lack basic clean water and sewage while 40% lack electricity. Sixty percent of housing is infected with potentially fatal black molds, and 97% of our Lakota people live below the poverty line. Unemployment rates on our reservations are 85% or higher. The Federal Commodity Food Program provides high sugar foods that kill Native people through diabetes and heart disease. Teenage suicide rate is 150% higher than the U.S national average for this group. Our Lakota language is an Endangered Language, on the verge of extinction.

After 150 years of colonial enforcement, when you back people into a corner there is only one alternative. That alternative is to bring freedom back into existence by taking it back - back to the love of freedom, to our lifeway. --Canupa Gluha Mani

Join the Anti-Racist Action Network

by Noah Learned

Joining the Anti-Racist Action Network's efforts to built a more free, equal, multicultural, pluralistic society is now just a few clicks or a letter away.

As part of our effort to become a broad based association that easily facilitates the participation and support of those interested in our work and ideas, we have now made it possible for individuals to become official member-supporters of the ARA Network, either through our website (www.arastore.com) or by mail.

If you decide to become a member-supporter, for your annual payment of $20 you will receive the following benefits:

- A subscription to ***Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education***. This is the ARA Network's bimonthly print journal, which has been published for over twenty years. This is a $18 value in and of itself.
- Consideration for access to ARA's activities fund. This fund is occasionally tapped into, in order to help a chapter further its activities, or to help with the legal defense of individual ARA members in the event they are inadvertently arrested at a demonstration or if they are meeting some sort of official resistance to ARA's work.
- A charter to begin to organize officially recognized member/supporter chapters, the first step toward established a fully-vetted chapter of ARA.
- A member/supporter handbook which will you help you in your activities as an anti-racist and provide you with extended means for navigating the ARA Network.
- Enrollment in ARA's members-only message board to strategize with and get to know fellow member supporters.
- Up to date announcements on ARA activities in your area
- Invitation to participate in the member/supporters caucus at the annual Network gatherings

Your responsibilities as an ARA Network member-supporter:

- To remain in good standing there is an expectation of $20 U.S. in annual dues. In some cases exceptions may be made. Please send an explanation to: LafayetteARA@yahoo.com if you feel that you may qualify for an exception. 100% of dues go to ARA's activities fund to sustain the Network. We are a voluntary not for profit political and social action association, and have no paid employees or elected officers.
- As a member-supporter you do not have the same level of access to the internal working or the organization that a full member or full member chapter does. However, if you would like to become more involved, it's not hard. Simply make your intentions known to the Network and we will arrange for a delegation of ARA representatives to meet with you face-to-face in the future so they can work with and vouch for you. Also, events like the ARA national conference are a good time to apply for full membership!
- For major issues affecting the Network, member supporters will be given the opportunity to vote anonymously. In these matters the whole group of individual member-supporters will be given the vote of one chapter. For decisions pertaining exclusively to member-supporters, you will be able to vote individually.

That about sums it up! Hope to count you among the latest members of the ARA Network!

Anti-fa skins in Orlando confront racist boneheads.

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) **WE GO WHERE THEY GO:** Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the streets!

2) **WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US:** This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) **NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS:** In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) **We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom.** ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. **WE INTEND TO WIN!**

ARA Quebec City chapter is one of the younger ARA chapter in North America, (yet the only one with 100% French-speaking members - members of Montreal ARA speak French too but there are also a lot of them from the English-speaking community). The folks involved in Quebec City have been linked with ARA Montreal, RASH Quebec City and RASH Montreal for years. But they decided in 2004 that not only Redskins from Quebec/Montreal city and ARA Montreal have to do the hard anti-fa work here in Quebec. The rise of racism/fascism/nazism in our city and province in the last few years is such a big problem that every one interested in anti racist actions should be able to join a movement that puts unity of all anti-fas first.

AAR/ARA a des chapitres partout au Canada et aux Etats-Unis et connait une croissance rapide. AAR/ARA est un reseau de personnes ordinaires qui travaillent ensemble pour resoudre un probleme bien indentifie. Nous sommes decides a faire le dur travail necessaire pour faire decroitre le racisme, le sexisme, le gay-bashing, l'anti-semitisme et a lutter contre les inegalites sociales dont souffrent souvent les plus demunis, les jeunes, les vieux et les plus pauvres de notre communaute. Nous n'arreterons pas tant que les problemes en cause ne seront pas regles.

LES 4 POINTS D'UNITE D'AAR/ARA:

1) **NOUS ALLONS OU ILS VONT:** Quand les fascistes s'organisent ou sont actifs en public, nous y sommes. Nous ne croyons pas que les ignorer ou se tenir loin d'eux soit une solution. Ne laissons jamais les nazis tenir la rue!

2) **NOUS NE NOUS APPUYONS PAS SUR LES FLICS OU LA JUSTICE POUR FAIRE NOTRE TRAVAIL:** Cela ne veut pas dire que nous n'allons jamais en cour. Mais nous comptons d'abord sur nous meme pour nous proteger et arreter les fascistes.

3) **DEFENSE ANTISECTAIRE DES AUTRES ANTIFASCISTES:** Le reseau AAR/ARA est compose de differents groupes et individus. Nous ne nous entendons pas sur tout et on ne s'empêche pas de confronter nos opinions. Mais dans ce mouvement, une attaque contre un est une attaque contre tous. Nous sommes solidaires.

4) **Nous supportons le droit a l'avortement et la liberte pour tous de choisir ce qu'ils veulent faire de leur peau.** AAR/ARA entend s'attaquer au dur travail qui permettra de construire un large et fort mouvement qui s'eleve contre le racisme, le sexisme, l'anti-semitisme, l'homophobie, l'exploitation des classes ouvrieres, la repression et la discrimination contre les demunis, les vieux, les jeunes et les plus opprimes du peuple. **NOUS VOULONS UNE SOCIETE SANS CLASSE ET NOUS ALLONS GAGNER!**

LOS CUATRO PUNTOS DE UNIDAD DE LA RED DE ACCION ANTI-RACISTA:

1) **VAMOS DONDE ELLOS VAN:** Cada vez que los fascistas organizan o tienen actividades en público, que estamos allí. No creemos en ignorarlos ni evitarlos. Nunca deje que los nazis tienen las calles!

2) **NO CONFIAMOS EN LA POLICIA O LOS TRIBUNALES PARA HACER NUESTRO TRABAJO PARA NOSOTROS:** Esto no significa que nunca acudir a los tribunales. Pero debemos confiar en nosotros mismos para protegernos a nosotros mismos y dejar de los fascistas.

3) **DEFENSA NO SECTARIANA DE OTROS ANTI-FASCISTAS:** En ARA, hay un montón de diferentes grupos y personas. No estamos de acuerdo acerca de todo y tenemos derecho a diferir abiertamente. Pero en este movimiento, un ataque contra uno es un ataque contra todos nosotros. Estamos detrás de la otra

4) **Apoyamos los derechos al aborto y la libertad reproductiva.** ARA tiene la intención de hacer el trabajo duro necesario para construir un movimiento amplio y fuerte contra el racismo, el sexismo, el antisemitismo, la homofobia y la discriminación contra las personas con discapacidad, los más antiguos, los más jóvenes y los más oprimidos. **VAMOS A TRIUNFAR!**

Indigenous Women say NO! to Olympic Brothels

by
Aboriginal Women's Action Network

As Aboriginal women on occupied Coast Salish Territory, we, the Aboriginal Women's Action Network (AWAN) implore you to pay attention to the voices of Aboriginal women and women's groups. They are speaking out in the interest of our sisters, our daughters, our friends and all women whose voices have not been heard in the recent media discussion on prostitution and legalized brothels for the 2010 Olympics.

We, the Aboriginal Women's Action Network, speak especially in the interests of the most vulnerable women - street prostitutes, of which a significant number are young Aboriginal women and girls. We have a long, multi-generational history of colonization, marginalization, and displacement from our Homelands, and rampant abuses that has forced many of our sisters into prostitution. Aboriginal women are often either forced into prostitution, trafficked into prostitution or are facing that possibility. Given that the average age at which girls enter prostitution is fourteen, the majority with a history of unspeakable abuses, we are also speaking out for the Aboriginal children who are targeted by johns and pimps.

Aboriginal girls are hunted down and prostituted, and the perpetrators go uncharged with child sexual assault and child rape. These predators, pervasive in our society, roam with impunity in our streets and take advantage of those Aboriginal children with the least protection. While we are speaking out for the women in the downtown eastside of Vancouver, we include women from First Nations Reserves, and other Aboriginal communities, most of whom have few resources and limited choices. We include them because AWAN members also originate from those communities, and AWAN members interact regularly with Native women from these communities.

The Aboriginal Women's Action Network opposes the legalization of prostitution, and any state regulation of prostitution that entrenches Aboriginal women and children in the so-called "sex trade." We hold that legalizing prostitution in Vancouver will not make it safer for those prostituted, but will merely increase their numbers. Contrary to current media coverage of the issue, the available evidence suggests that it would in fact be harmful, would expand prostitution and would promote trafficking, and would only serve to make prostitution safer and more profitable for the men who exploit and harm prostituted women and children. Although many well-meaning people think that decriminalization simply means protecting prostituted women from arrest, it also refers, dangerously, to the decriminalization of johns and pimps. In this way prostitution is normalized, johns multiply, and pimps and traffickers become legitimated entrepreneurs.

Say "No" to this lack of concern for marginalized women and children, who in this industry are expected to serve simply as objects of consumption!

The Aboriginal Women's Action Network opposes the legalization of brothels for the 2010 Olympics. We refuse to be commodities in the so-called "sex industry" or offer up our sisters and daughters to be used as disposable objects for sex tourists. A harm-reduction model that claims to help prostituted women by moving them indoors to legal brothels not only would not reduce the harm to them, but also would disguise the real issues. There is no evidence that indoor prostitution is safer for the women involved. Rather, it is just as violent and traumatic. Prostitution is inherently violent, merely an extension of the violence that most prostituted women experience as children. We should aim not merely to reduce this harm, as if it is a necessary evil and/or inescapable, but strive to eliminate it altogether. Those promoting prostitution rarely address class, race, or ethnicity as factors that make women even more vulnerable.

A treatise can be written about Aboriginal women's vulnerability based on race, socio-economic status and gender but suffice it to say that we are very over-represented in street-level prostitution. There may even be a class bias behind the belief that street prostitution is far worse than indoor forms. It is not the street per se or the laws for that matter, which are the source of the problem, but prostitution itself which depends on a sub-class of women or a degraded caste to be exploited. A major factor contributing to the absence of attention given to the women who have gone missing women in Vancouver is the lack of police response, and the insidious societal belief that these women were not worthy of protection. This message is explicitly conveyed to the johns, giving them the go-ahead to act toward these women with impunity.

If we want to protect the most vulnerable women, we could start by decriminalizing prostituted women, not the men who harm them. Although it is not mentioned in the local news, the Swedish model of dealing with prostitution provides an example we should seriously consider. It criminalizes only the buying of sex, not the selling, targeting the customer, pimp, procurer, and trafficker, rather than the prostituted woman, and provides an array of social services to aid women to leave prostitution. Given that the vast majority of prostituted women wish to leave prostitution, we should focus on finding ways to help them to do that rather than entrenching them further into prostitution by legalizing and institutionalizing it.

Here in Vancouver, if we are to help those most in need, young Aboriginal women, it would help to think more long-term, to focus on healing and prevention. Let's not get tricked into a supposed fix that is not even a band aid, but only deepens the wounds. AWAN demands that Aboriginal women have the opportunity to raise our families within our Traditional values of having a respected position for women and children in our societies. The single most effective way of achieving that goal is empowering and resourcing Aboriginal women's groups, such as AWAN, so that we can organize, engage with other sectors of society and speak with our own voices.

We have a great deal of certainty that organized Aboriginal women's voices would be calling for "Exiting" programs and services, support for Aboriginal women and children, and an end to forced prostitution. Don't let Vancouver enter into the 2010 Olympics wearing the black-eye of decriminalized prostitution and legalized brothels that drive Aboriginal women further down the Human Rights ladder of Canadian and Vancouver society. Posted by: indigenous.free.school@gmail.com

For further information, please contact AWAN spokesperson, Laura Holland at (604) 767-5564.

The War Against Ourselves

Written and copyright (c) '07 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

We often think, when we dare to do so, of the Iraq War as a war over there, against 'those' people - folks other than Us. Depending on our political perspective, it is either a good war, or an evil war. But, no matter our political, ideological perspective, time will determine whether it isn't a war against us all, as well.

That's because for those tens of thousands who survive, who are neither killed nor maimed, they will return to the U.S., with their minds twisted by an orgy of violence that will not easily be left 'over there.'

It is worthless to listen to any major political figures who speak of this war, for they are speaking with flowery words about unreality, with buzz phrases like, 'support our troops, they're fighting for our freedoms,' and other such nonsense.

Several recent books, written not by brass but by low level non-commissioned officers, tell a story that will never make it to CNN, to the networks, or to the daily press. That's because these reports, written by line soldiers, are striking in their absence of political jargon or the illusions usually presented as war reporting.

Do you remember reports about the notorious Iraqi house raids, ostensibly as searches for weapons? Paul Rieckhoff, a platoon leader of National Guardsmen describes how he and his men broke down doors, tied up all the men, and ransacked people's homes. Of these raids, Rieckhoff wrote in his book, *Chasing Ghosts: Failures and Facades in Iraq: A Soldier's Perspective* (NAL Caliber: 2007), these "were nasty business. Anybody who enjoyed them was sick. *Sometimes I felt like I was a member of the Brown shirts in Nazi Germany*." [Italics added.] Rieckhoff writes about men in his platoon stealing money from these Iraqi families, something he describes as not uncommon.

In the corporate media's reflexive war promotion, and its overt message of 'support the troops,' who knows what they are supporting?

These books, written from the soldier's viewpoint, tell of the gratuitous killing of unarmed civilians, both by high level bombings, artillery, and ground level shootings. Men, women, and children are shot with an abandon that would make a terrorist blush. One Texan, Marine lance corporal Jeffrey Carazales said, "Do you think people at home are going to see this -- all these women and children we're killing? F - -k no. Back home they're glorifying this mo ----f----r, I guarantee you."

No politician, right or left, will describe them as modern day Nazis, riding roughshod over the Iraqi people, and indeed, creating a resistance that didn't exist at the time of the US invasion.

That's how far politics is from the truth, a truth dripping out from soldiers, who are unafraid of self-description.

In the years to come, when people trickle home, they will carry these nightmares into their work lives, and also into their personal lives. They will be cops, prison guards, politicians, merchants, teachers, and journalists. Within them will be these silent demons who will not rest in Iraq.

American society was deeply impacted by the return of Vietnam veterans, and not for the better. We have yet to see the ripples from the war wash against the shores of this land. We will find that the blood of war, and the perversities of occupation will splash against us all.

Sources: *Massing, Michael, "Iraq: The Hidden Human Costs,"* The New York Review of Books (12/20/07), pp.82-87; Fick, Nathaniel, *One Bullet Away: The Making of a Marine Officer*, (Mariner: 2007); Wright, Evan, *Generation Kill: Devil Dogs, Iceman, Captain America, and the New Face of American War* (Berkley Caliber; 2007.

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Guam: Indigenous Rights in the Crosshairs

by Gina Hotta

Michael Tuncap pulls up his sleeve to reveal a tattoo on his arm. It's the word "Chamoru", the name of the indigenous people of Guam. "The reason the Spanish called us Chamoru is because of our dark skin", says Tuncap. The name originally comes from the word "Moro" and has to do with Spain's conflicted relationship with the Moors of Africa. "So initially, from the point of contact, race mattered in Guahan", says Tuncap using the Chamoru word for Guam. An instructor at the University of California, Berkeley, Tuncap is also part of a younger generation of Chamorus who are voicing their concerns about plans to increase US military presence on Guam. In October 2006, a group of Chamorus went to the United Nations and testified that those plans could bring about the irreversible decline of indigenous culture and further undermine their political rights.

Following the Spanish-American war, the US took control of the island and changed its name from Guahan to Guam. "Guahan means 'we - have'. It is connected to our principal of interdependence. For me to be good, then all of us in this room need to be good. Changing things like language are ways that the US has tried to get us to forget where we come from," says Tuncap. Sitting next to him are Victoria Guerrero and Kerri Ann Borja. The two young women were part of the Chamoru coalition that testified at the United Nations to try and bring the world's attention to their plight.

For the US military, Guam plays a critical role in the deployment of forces should conflict arise in the Pacific. At the same time, environmental concerns, crime, and the high costs associated with housing US bases in Asia have created grassroots movements in South Korea, Okinawa and Japan that seek to move the US military out of those countries. And Guam is seen as a prime alternative for relocation of US troops. In a March 2006 Taipei Times article, US Pacific Commander leader Admiral William Fallon explained that South Korea's President Roh Moo-hyun has the ability to impose some restrictions on US forces stationed there. Fallon said he saw Guam as primarily a staging area where no such restrictions would apply. And that, Fallon says, is a genuine advantage. "Guam is American territory."

But as Americans and military personnel on Guam exercised their right to vote, many Chamorus could not do so. The Congressional Organic Act of Guam in 1950 made Chamorus US citizens, but "citizens" without the right to vote -- thereby weakening their ability to determine local policies that are set by the federal government. Guam's Congressional representative does not have a vote and can only lobby in Congress. Guam is an unincorporated US territory with limited constitutional rights. This makes it much harder to gain political clout in situations where, for example, the US military exercises its power to take control of land. Guerrero says that during World War II, "75% of the island was used for eminent domain to bomb Japan and now the US occupies 30% of the island. For about 20 years we've been fighting to get land back." Immigration policies, also set by the federal government, have led in part to Chamorus becoming a little over a third of Guam's population out of a total of around 168,000 people.

Introducing herself in Chamoru and identifying herself by family affiliation in the traditional way, Victoria-Lola Montecalvo Leon Guerrero is a writer who is bilingual in both her native tongue and in English. However, she thinks that less than half of her age-group of twenty- to thirty-year-olds speaks the language. Among the generation following hers, the ability to speak Chamoru diminishes even more. English became the main language after World War II when the US regained control of Guam from Japan. Guerrero says of her parent's generation that, "you'd be punished if you spoke Chamoru in school. In order to succeed you had to follow these US standards in which Chamoru had no place."

Kerri Ann Borja echoes this sentiment. Like Tuncap and Guerrero, she now lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area. Many Chamorus migrate to the continental US because of limited opportunities on the island. Borja teaches in San Francisco and has thought of working in Guam. However, people there tell her to teach in military schools because of the higher pay as opposed to teaching in schools serving primarily native residents. Borja was born and raised off-island, traveling with her family while her father served in the US military. When researching the endangered Chamoru language, Borja asked her father why she was never taught it. "If you go to American schools", Borja's father told her, "you don't need to know Chamoru".

However, Borja intends to educate herself. "My mom's parents never taught her Chamoru. She learned it when she was older. Now I'm trying to learn Chamoru, but it's so hard for me to learn it fully." Spanish, US and Japanese occupation of Guam total about 500 years. But Victoria Guerrero says that Guam's history goes back thousands of years and that this is what provides the foundation for a people still proud of who they are. "Even though my parents weren't allowed to speak Chamoru in school, they spoke it in the streets. That is the way they rebelled to preserve that language."

But Guam's central role in the Pacific region continues to increase for the US armed forces. And that will put more pressure on the indigenous community. The relocation of Marines from Okinawa will base approximately 8000 Marine Expeditionary Force personnel and about 9000 dependents in Guam by 2014 as stated in the US-Japan Roadmap for Realignment issued by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Japan Foreign Affairs Minister Taro Aso in May 2006. And in June 2006, the US launched operation "Valiant Shield" from Guam. It was the largest joint military showcase of US power in the Pacific in the last decade.

In order to voice their concerns, Victoria Guerrero and Kerri Ann Borja went to the United Nations in New York. In October 2006, as part of the Chamoru coalition, they testified before the United Nations Special Political and Decolonization Committee. The military build-up and its negative impact on the indigenous people of Guam were central to their presentations. In addition, a petition asking for UN intervention to help ensure rights for Chamorus was presented in the hopes of elevating their concerns before the international community.

On the strength of their testimonies, UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Ibrahim Gambari later met with coalition members. "He really believes that Guam deserves the right to self-determination," says Guerrero. However, Gambari was honest with them saying that no UN resolution will be passed because the US will veto it. Guerrero says there was a recommendation for, "a UN representative to go to Guam and do a report on the situation to take us out of that status of being an invisible colony."

2007 Chamoru testimony to the United Nations

by Debbie Quinata, Maga' Haga (highest ranking female of I Nasion Chamoru)

Michael Lujan Bevacqua, representative of Famoksaiyan, an organization that brought together Chamoru people from the Pacific and the United States committed to the decolonization of Guam, noted that, in 1980, Chamorus made up 45 per cent of Guam's population, but that number had fallen to 37 per cent in 2000. Since September 11, 2001, America's military presence had risen steadily, and Guam faced a further increase of 55,000 civilian and military personnel due to the relocating of American Marines, Air Force and Army staff from Okinawa and the Republic of Korea. "American military commanders beamed with pride at the incredible control they enjoyed over this tiny little island, which they regularly call 'Fortress Guam', or the 'tip of America's spear'," he said.

The official position of the United States on its colonies today was that they were domestic concerns, he said. As such, they claim that the UN had no authority or mandate to encourage negotiations on their status, or to alter their relationship to the US. The government's resistance to resolution 1541 (1960) (Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples) was clear. As the US continued to "politely and impolitely" insist that the United Nations mind its own business, he felt it was necessary for the UN to engage in its own forms of "polite and impolite action."

Rima Miles, a Refaluwasch (or Carolinian), from the island of Saipan in Guam, said the Chamoru right to self-determination was being threatened by the US actions, which contradicted the terms of its obligation to the Chamoru people. The militarization of their homeland was a direct impediment to the Chamoru right to self-determination. In addition, live-fire sites would be available to the naval and air forces of other UN Member States, including Australia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia. She urged the Committee to condemn that multinational disregard for the UN Charter and resolution 1541. She said that, not only were they seeing international Governments interested in United States military schemes for Guam, but "corporate vultures" were circling and already touching down, and $10 billion in new investment by the United States Department of Defense could be expected. With one third of the island occupied, national integrity would be compromised. Where the land and sea used to be protected, now beachfront developments foreshadowed the future to come. The loss of land was coupled with environmental degradation. "We are students and parents who do not have […] money, but still we come […] in order for you to fulfill your mission," and so that "these voices cannot be forgotten." More than 160 United States atomic and hydrogen bomb tests had made women into vessels to pass death to the hope they carried in their wombs.

Marie Auyong, Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice, speaking on behalf of Victoria-Lola M. Leon Guerrero, said that an amplified militarization of Guam was a direct impediment to the native people's human right to self-determination and should spark concern in the international community about US military presence in the Pacific. Guam was host to the largest US military exercises in the Pacific since the Vietnam War. The people of Guam did not unanimously support the US militarization on the island, yet, because that country was the administering Power, they had no way of stopping it. "It is tragic that more than 60 years after your inception, and the UN declaration to eradicate colonization, the people of Guam remain squashed under the thumb of the world's biggest superpower," she said.

The UN should be more active in upholding resolution 1541, ensuring that the native Chamoru people of Guam exercise their right to self-determination and decolonization. A fact-finding mission should be sent to Guam. The island also needed more resources for educational campaigns about self-determination and decolonization.

For more information:

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For background on Guam:

http://minagahet.blogspot.com/2007/12/invasion-of-guam.html
http://members.aol.com/magastodu/mayot.htm

Jan. 11 Day of Action to Shut Down US Detention Center at Guantanamo

"Immediately close the detention center at Guantnamo Bay, Cuba, and either release its inmates or bring them before an impartial tribunal." -- United Nations Human Rights Commission

CALL TO ACTION: We declare January 11, 2008, six years after the first prisoners arrived at Guantanamo, an International Day of Action to Shut Down Guantanamo. In Washington, DC we will hold a permitted demonstration at the National Mall followed by an orange jumpsuit procession to the Supreme Court. There will also be solidarity demonstrations in Chicago, Miami, London and Paris, with more being added every day. We invite you to come to Washington and participate, or else join or plan an action in your own community. We also encourage people around the world to wear orange t-shirts, armbands or other orange clothing on January 11th to mark the date. For more information, email jan11@witnesstorture.org or call Matt Daloisio at 201-264-4424. For up-to-date details as well as information about housing, food, rides and directions, legal support and much more, please visit our web site at www.WitnessTorture.org. Please make a contribution to help cover the costs of the January 11th event. You can donate online or send a check made out to "Witness Against Torture" to Mary House Catholic Worker, 55 E. Third Street, New York, NY 10003.

Detroit conference to build unity for immigrant rights

by Carlos Montes

The battle is on. Attacks against immigrants are intensifying. There is an upturn in ICE raids, mass detentions and deportations. Jailing, beatings and killings by police and ICE agents continue, with hate crimes against Mexicans on the rise.

We must unite all progressive forces in a united front to beat back these attacks and again take back the offensive to win complete legalization for all immigrants and end the war in Iraq. We call on all pro-immigrant rights and progressive organizations to join us for a national unity conference on Feb. 22-23, 2008 in Detroit, MI.

At this conference we will unite on a plan of action for mass national mobilizations in major cities for May 1, 2008. Without struggle there will be no victories. We will not wait for a change in politicians; our people demand an end to the attacks now and legalization! We do not have the luxury of waiting for another administration while families are being torn apart by deportations.

We know that the masses are the real makers of history and by uniting and mobilizing the masses we will change history. We are living in a time of crisis, with wars, recessions and racist attacks and it is during critical times that major changes take place. Let's all be part of making history. Join us in Detroit on Feb. 22-23, 2008 to build unity and a plan of action. The conference is organized by the National May 1st Movement for Worker and Immigrant Rights.

Carlos Montes, formerly of the Brown Berets and the Chicano Moratorium, is a leader in the March 25th Coalition and Latinos Against War, both based in East Los Angeles, California. For more information contact: ***www.latinoscontralaguerra.org***

Stop the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps Regional Leadership Conference in Kansas City, MO on February 1-2, 2008

by Dave, Kansas Mutual Aid, kansasmutualaid@hotmail.com

The Minutemen Civil Defense Corps, an anti-immigrant armed vigilante group that patrols the U.S./Mexico border, is having their regional leadership conference in Kansas City on February 1-2. Anti-racists and immigrant rights supporters from Kansas City and the surrounding areas are organizing to stop this meeting from happening!

The Uptown Theater will be hosting the first day of the Minutemen conference on February 1, and we're calling on all people concerned with this conference to contact the Uptown and demand that they cancel their support for this event! We're calling on everyone to call, fax, and e-mail the Uptown to literally drown them in condemnation and demands to cancel the meeting at their theater. Phone: 816-753-8665 ext 113. Starting today, call the Uptown everyday this week between noon and 1pm and 3-5pm (these times may be re-evaluated ddepending on the response from the Uptown). Call as often as you can... flood them with demands to shut this meeting down! E-mails: uga@uptowntheater.com. We're calling on people to e-mail the Uptown every day, demanding they don't host the meeting. Get friends to do so, too. Flood their inbox! Fax: 816-753-7643: Send them anti-minutemen faxes, or whatever else to let them the sorry racist record of the Minutemen.

The Minutemen Civil Defense Corps has well known ties to white supremacist organizations all across the country. The local Minutemen chapter has been harrassing migrants at their places of employment, including migrants that are here with documentation. The KC Minutemen specifically target Latinos and people of Middle Eastern descent in these actions.

Ed. note: The local Minutemen are run by an ex-cop and include in their ranks a woman appointed to the Parks Commission by the local mayor, who lied about her affiliation with the group. A local college law professor helped write the Bush administration anti-immigrant laws under Homeland Security, has drafted "model" anti-immigrant local ordinances, and works with the group FAIR, which has been funded by the racist eugenics network of John Tanton.

The Minutemen are aiming to parlay such anti-immigrant organizing into launching pad to target immigrants, especially Mexicans, as scapegoats in the 2008 electoral process.

Rank and File Roofers Win Back Control of Local

by Jubilee Shine

The rank & file roofers of L.A. Local 36 have swept our executive board elections last weekend. We took all 9 exec board seats against a ticket endorsed by the corrupt international leadership. For the last 2 years the international had imposed trusteeship over our local, dissolving our elected board, seizing our accounts & office, & taking over our day to day operations. A formal complaint to the US Dept. of Labor forced a new election and against all odds & expectations, we won every seat, myself elected to recording secretary, one of 4 officer positions on the exec board.

We represent 800 roofers at the largest shops in the greater l.a. area, with contracts from malibu to anaheim. 95% of our members are spanish speaking, many undocumented. We still expect dirty tricks from the international before (& after) the swearing in ceremony, attempting to prevent the transfer of power so we invite all labor supporters, media, etc., to attend, observe & support the swearing in at 7pm on Wednesday, January 2, 2008 at the Cement Masons Hall, 5811 E. Florence Avenue, Bell Gardens, east off the 710. (Enter off Ajax Ave., just north of Florence).

We also are in immediate need of:

a labor attorney for permanent retainer,
an office secretary, (fluent bilingual), and
several union organizers, fluent bilingual., must be able to deal with blue collar conditions, and loyal to the rank and file.

Contact Jubilee at 213.663.6316

National Community Action Coalition Unity Summit, April 4-5 Augusta, GA

We would like to ask every organization and church groups, individuals, religions, youth leaders, community activist etc., that have an interest in human rights, civil rights and minority interest to join the steering committee. The contact person for the steering committee is Brother William X Akbar. We are asking your support of this initiative. National and international communities, we are asking you to attend the summit and collectively bring your organizations to the table to strategize and empower.

We can begin to close the divide by creating a national network and uniting. We have called for an end to hate, police brutality, racial profiling, negative media portrayal, hate speech, race baiting and disrespect by shock jocks over the airwaves of public, judicial disparities and injustice. We are asking that you join us to address these issues strategically. Now we as a people with an interest in our families, schools, businesses, economy and livelihood are hoping to see people of all races and cultures and good moral consciousness find just two days out of their busy schedule to support the people. Hence, a nationwide movement is gaining momentum to stage a summit with speakers, a march, networking session and a banquet on April 4th-5th 2008. The Power is in YOU!

For example we have Rev. Pinkney in Benton Harbor Michigan facing injustice. The corruption and deceitfulness continue in Berrien County Courthouse. Judge Butzbaugh has violated his oath. What about Rev. Pinkney's right to free speech under the Constitution? And why have they seized his computer? Have the sheriffs of Michigan nothing better to do than to persecute Rev. Pinkney? No violent crimes to solve, no rapists to catch, no people to protect? Legal abuse and persecution of Afro-Americans like in the Jim Crow South is flourishing in Michigan. We must not stand by while the white elite of Berrien County attempt again to silence a man whose only 'crime' is to be the voice of Benton Harbor's Black community, calling out the racism and corruption of local government, police and courts.

We the people have the power. We are not asking you to stop your initiatives or join any organization. We are asking you to attend this national event and bring your fruits to the table so we can strategize and build a stronger national network where we will know where to send those people facing injustice to the various organizations they may not have been aware of. Our website is www.communityactions.org. We are committed to building awareness, internet activism and providing a voice for the voiceless. You are welcome to join our movement, our blog at http://www.realityinpolitics.com or our radio show staff that we are building for the internet. The call in number is 646 716-8675. The show is aired on the internet on Mon, Wed, Sat at 8 pm eastern time until 10 pm. We will be expanding our show to 1600 AM WKZK everyday at 6 pm ET host Champ Walker and that call-in number is 706 738-0044. **UNITY SUMMIT,P.O. Box 31304 Augusta GA 30901**

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PART's Perspective:
Obama, Imperialism and the Paradox of Plenty amid Poverty

by
Michael Novick, **Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror *(ARA-LA/PART)***

In the 1950s and '60s, liberal and conservative social theorists used to speculate about the reasons for "the paradox of poverty amid plenty." How could we account for persistent and unyielding cross-generational poverty in certain sectors of the US population, when the US was the richest and most powerful country in the world? These 'thinkers' shared the assumption that the Empire was capable of endless growth, producing ever-increasing wealth. The idea that this horn of plenty could not seem to eradicate poverty even inside its own borders was a nagging perplexity. Neither school of thought could admit or even contemplate the reality that increasing wealth was extracted from, and in turn produced, increasing poverty. Nor could they begin to acknowledge the on-going process of race-based settler colonialism and "primitive accumulation" that characterizes the US Empire. Openly racial explanations were either too discredited or too embarrassing to allow in the era of the civil rights struggle and decolonization in Africa, Latin America and Asia. So the liberals and conservatives alike tended towards slightly different varieties of blaming the victim. Liberals focused on a lack of education; conservatives blamed sociopathic family inadequacy. These were two different sets of code for pinning the problem on Black women. Perhaps the fact that most of these social critics were well-educated and well-paid white men helps explain how this 'analysis' developed. Some lined up with JFK's New Frontier and LBJ's War on Poverty; others cast their lot with Nixon's "benign neglect" and later Reagan's "supply side" economics. Globally, the permutations of neo-liberalism and neo-conservatism used imperial 'rule-making' and austerity measures, in combination with imperial saber-rattling and direct military intervention, to impose "solutions" that further enriched US corporate interests at the expense of the rest of the world.

Forty years on, we can begin to recast, in fact reverse, the nature of the paradox they attempted to explain - the paradox in fact is the existence of plenty amid poverty. This is the era of peak oil, limits to growth, and the environmental devastation of global warming, mass extinctions and oceanic acidification. Now it is clear that endless growth is a cancerous, destructive and unsustainable delusion. So the paradox is not why a few people insist on staying poor amid all the wealth. Rather, the paradox is how it's possible for a handful to become increasingly, obscenely wealthy when so many billions of people in the world, and the planet itself, seem doomed to misery and poverty.

IMPERIALISM & IMMISERATION

Seen from that angle, the explanation is self-evident. All the wealth has been extracted from the masses of exploited and colonized people and from the biosphere of the planet itself. All the power is amassed by transferring it from the masses of oppressed and colonized people and nations into the hands of the oppressors and colonizers. Not really a paradox at all, it is simply the irreconcilable and inescapable contradiction that is at the heart of the system of colonialism/capitalism. The stratagems of liberal or neo-liberal, conservative or neo-conservative theorists and practitioners only serve to delay and increase the enormity of the inevitable explosive resolution of that contradiction through the expropriation of the expropriators and the suppression of the oppressors.

OLD PARADIGM, NEW PARADOX

However, socially, culturally and politically, new paradoxes do seem to emerge in this stage of not merely moribund but necrotic capitalism. One that springs to mind is the paradox of how a Black man can emerge as the front runner for the Democratic nomination and the presidency, at the same time that a majority of all Black men in the US serve time at some time in prisons and jails. How is it possible that simultaneously with the nation-wide spread of nooses at high schools, colleges and workplaces - when the noose is a symbol of mass white complicity in racist terror through lynchings - that a Black candidate for president would garner compelling majorities in predominantly white states? Yet really, the two phenomena are flip sides of the same coin, the desperation of the doomed social system of settler colonial empire and white supremacy. It is not uncommon in the history and life span of empires that in their decadence and senescence, they seek rejuvenation and a new lease on life by conferring the imperial throne on someone from the ranks of the colonized. Neither is the last-ditch, die-hard turn to reactionary violence and terror uncommon, particularly among settler-colonial societies that see the handwriting on the wall, such as in the Reconstruction-era South, "French" Algeria or Rhodesia.

A CANDIDACY IS NOT A 'MOVEMENT'

The notion that Barack Obama is to any degree the candidate of a "movement" is a measure of the degradation of both language and politics in the period since the defeat and disorientation of the revolutionary struggles of the 60s and 70s through COINTELPRO and other counter-insurgency warfare. It is not racist to compare the Obama candidacy to Jesse Jackson's reformist Rainbow Coalition campaigns in the 1980s. Doing so makes it immediately clear that Obama is simply a youthful, charismatic and rhetorically gifted speaker and a conventional politician. He has never challenged or opposed the Empire or even its most retrograde and reactionary sectors through any form of mass action, militance or grassroots organizing and resistance during his entire career or in his current platform. Jackson, for all his personal flaws and political reformism, at least came out of a massive social movement, and attempted to unite various opposition sectors beginning with poor and working people. Jackson staked his campaign on voter registration of the disenfranchised, unity among Black, Mexicano, Asian and white workers. He actually had success in winning some white 'Reagan Democrat' workers in places like Michigan, because he created a pole of attraction by uniting significant movement sectors of people of color and by speaking out forcefully against unfair privilege and advantage.

Obama, on the heels of massive electoral fraud and ongoing disenfranchisement directed against Black people, of the institutionalization of thuggishness in the Republicans and spinelessness in the Democrats, presents himself as a post-racial, post-partisan "unifier." Democrats who spent eight years praying for someone who would stand up to and stick it to the Republicans are now falling head-over-heels for someone who presents himself as a paragon of bipartisanship. This only serves to underline the deeply delusional nature of a belief in the efficacy of the US electoral system to produce any meaningful or significant change. Supporting Obama allows people who are not prepared to acknowledge or break with the system of white supremacy and settler colonial empire the ability to feel that they are color-blind and have transcended racism. Thus their extreme discomfort with Hillary Clinton and her "injection" of race into the race. Aren't we beyond that?

Obama, conveniently for Euro-American society, answers the paradox of poverty amid plenty - he 'proves' that poverty, particularly Black poverty, is the fault of the poor - while allowing the privileged to ignore the paradox of plenty amid poverty. Perhaps more pertinent than the comparison to Jackson would be one to Cynthia McKinney. McKinney fought back ferociously against Black disenfranchisement, opposed US support for Zionist aggression, questioned the official story of '9-11' and opposed gentrification, mass incarceration and the locking up of political dissidents and Muslims. As a result, she was twice ousted from her Congressional seat, and her campaign for the presidency via the Green Party receives scant media attention, all of it negative.

END THE WAR OR DRAW DOWN TROOPS?

By contrast, Obama politely opposed the war in Iraq when he could do little officially, and has done little officially against it since he could. As the war enters is 6th (or really, 16th) year, he now proposes to withdraw 'combat' troops - not all US forces. So he is the Democratic front runner. To get there and stay there, Obama has had to discipline and/or distance himself not only from Farrakhan but even from his own wife and his spiritual advisor. John Edwards has had more to say about New Orleans than Obama. George Bush, for that matter, spoke out more forcefully about the spate of nooses in the aftermath of the Jena Six case than Obama did. Is it possible to even imagine Obama drawing attention to the selective prosecution and set-up case of the Black Rider 3 in Los Angeles, or calling for a moratorium on the incarceration of Black and Mexicano/indigenous youth, or speaking out against the unparalleled increase in police killings in Los Angeles and around the US? Would Obama use his candidacy to draw attention to the Winter Soldier hearings organized by Iraq Veterans Against the War, let alone support active duty resisters inside the military? Obama asks us only to put rage and resentment behind us, and trust him.

It's noteworthy that Obama's candidacy has in fact failed to stimulate an outpouring of Black voters from the ranks of the poor and dispossessed. He is winning high percentages of the Black people who cast ballots, but the new voters he is drawing to the polls have come not from the poor Black masses but from young college graduates, predominantly white. His candidacy is a manifestation of the class divide that has opened inside the Black community between the downtrodden, dispossessed poor and the stratum that has been given a degree of entry into positions of status and wealth within the corporate economic and political system. Where once relatively well-to-do Black people functioned in relationship to, and drew their support and their wealth from, the Black masses, perhaps serving as interlocutors between them and white society, today's so-called Black bourgeoisie owes its status to separation from the Black masses and incorporation into the white power structure. We have moved beyond the 'house negro/field negro' distinction drawn by Malcolm X, to a distinction between Black overseers, managers and consiglieres of white property interests on the one hand, and Black lumpen, super-exploited and current, former and future prisoners on the other.

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE FOR THE EMPIRE

The smart money in the Empire is betting on Obama in hopes that he will prove clever enough, charismatic enough and capable enough to pull their chestnuts from the fire, to buy a little more time for them to maneuver. This is a pipe dream. The decay and disarray of imperialism, particularly that of the US Empire, is too far along to be easily surmounted (in which case Obama may then serve as a convenient fall guy if he does win). The paradox of plenty amid poverty is reaching its over-extended conclusion. No amount of "confidence-restoring" infusions of credit or monetary tinkering with interest rates will solve the ballooning crises of the US economic system, because the crisis is not one of confidence - it is a crisis of the disappearance of wealth and productive capacity. The bursting of the housing bubble and the inevitable toppling of the rest of the house of cards derived from it is because the median-priced house is now far beyond the capacity of the median-income family. No amount of gentrification and no amount of sub-prime lending can create a market that will sustain the unsustainable. If there is no market for housing, because oppressed and exploited people cannot afford to buy, the price will collapse. Speculative flipping, interest-only loans, and packaging of mortgages into financial instruments have only made the collapse more colossal and damaging to the entire financial and banking system. In an economic system whose growth sectors are prisons and health care, in which most productive capacity has been exported abroad to take advantage of super-exploited labor in China and India, and where even high-tech, high-value service jobs have followed the flight of capital, Obama has no solutions to offer. He will not deter US aggression against Iran or China.

The oppressed, colonized and exploited inside the US must take responsibility for our own survival and future, in the first place by making common cause with the oppressed, exploited and colonized around the world, and by learning from them. We need to apply the methods of horizontal organizing, of environmentally-sound food production, of factory and land takeovers that are developing in Latin America, Africa and Asia. We need to recognize that those who rule this society - those who benefit from the paradox of plenty amid poverty - are our enemies. White supremacy, neo-colonialism and other forms of privilege within the empire will only bind us to a sinking ship and take us down with it. It is time to make a break with illusion, and end our identification with the Empire and the oppressor. We need to begin to strategize now, not how to ensure Obama's election, but how to deal with the Empire if Obama indeed becomes Emperor.

A Punishment of Unusual Cruelty

by
Shane Martinez, ARA Toronto

From time to time we read or hear about sentences for startling amounts of time to be served by those convicted of serious crimes south of the border. Hundreds of years in prison or multiple life sentences are examples of some of the extreme punishments ordered by U.S. judges in cases where society is expected to agree that the crime committed is simply so heinous that the offender should never be free again.

What are some of the offenses that come to mind when reading of sentences so grave that they effectively eradicate any true liberty the convicted person may ever enjoy again someday? Murder? Rape? Terrorism? Indeed it must be a type of crime sufficiently horrific and appalling that it would cause any reasonable person to nod their head in agreement with the sentence and bid good riddance to the accused.

Would burglary be such a crime?
Derek Twyman was 14 years old when he and his family moved from the province of Ontario to the state of North Carolina. His father, Donald, had plans to start a furniture business there, and the family was going to build a future for themselves in the south. Unfortunately, shortly after moving to the U.S., Derek fell in with the wrong crowd and got caught up in a lifestyle that included a tendency to participate in acts of juvenile delinquency.

In 1989 he was on parole when he was picked up by the police in connection with a series of break-and-enters of homes belonging to affluent residents in North Carolina. Derek pled guilty to the offenses he was accused of, but was shown little mercy by Judge Thomas W. Ross, who sentenced him to four consecutive 40-year sentences in prison – an astonishing total of 160 years behind bars for non-violent property offenses.

The law that provided for such an excessive sentence was the misnamed Fair Sentencing Act, which was replaced in 1994 by the Structured Sentencing Act in an attempt to restore credibility and appropriateness to sentencing. Under the new law, someone who is facing the charges that Derek did in 1989 would only serve a maximum of 7 ½ years upon conviction, as opposed to the unthinkable century and a half that was given to Derek.

Putting aside for a moment the well-founded allegations that the original sentence constitutes cruel and unusual punishment, many would think that the new law would at least apply retroactively in order to halt the continuation of unjust sentences set down under the old law. Unfortunately, the Structured Sentencing Act does not apply to offenses committed before October 1994, undeterred by the fact that a comparison between the old and new legislation clearly depicts a gross disproportionality between the sentences that raises serious human rights concerns.

And given that Canada is the only country to which Derek holds citizenship, where might the political forces of Ottawa enter into this mess? Nowhere it seems. Despite Canada being a signatory to the International Prisoner Transfer Program with the U.S., Derek says that to date the Canadian government has not yet attempted to help him in any way, instead choosing to ignore such inhumane treatment of a Canadian citizen imprisoned abroad. If one looks to the requirements a prisoner must meet in order to be considered for a transfer, he is a perfect candidate with the exception of one thing: restitution.

The presiding judge who sentenced Derek to prison also ordered that he pay over $60,000 in restitution to the affluent residents whose homes he was convicted of burglarizing, even though insurance policies likely covered most (if not all) of the losses. The restitution order states that this amount must be paid before Derek can even be considered for deportation to Canada. Apparently it wasn't considered at sentencing that the convicted person going to prison for 160 years eliminates any realistic possibility of the restitution ever being paid.

Nor did it appear to dawn on the court that by the time Derek is eligible for his next parole review (on merely the second of the four 40-year sentences) the total cost of incarcerating him will be approximately $675,000. In the unlikely event that the intended recipients of the restitution were not covered by insurance, and actually needed it as compensation, the fulfillment of that opportunity was quashed in the most ironic of ways.

So, does the punishment fit the crime? Would you try to justify the lifetime imprisonment of a non-violent offender if it was you who lost a few material possessions? Would you shrug and try to rationalize it if the person locked up was a loved one of yours? Would you sit quietly in your concrete cell as the years passed by, trying to convince yourself that you deserve to never have freedom again?

Even through the desperate arguments that the prison sentence and accompanying restitution were attempts at promoting deterrence, this entire fiasco reeks of a typical "tough on crime" attitude gone terribly wrong. Word of this travesty is spreading, but at the present time Derek's liberty is the price being paid for the complete and ignominious failure that was the Fair Sentencing Act.

Derek hasn't lost hope. Having now spent over 18 years behind bars for this crime, he still manages to keep his spirit up and remains confident that people will take notice of this injustice. No human being should have to endure the kind of wrongful treatment that he has been subjected to. Now is the time for all of us to add our voices to the growing call for Derek Twyman's long overdue release.

To help Derek gain the justice and freedom he deserves, please take a moment to sign this online petition: www.petitiononline.com/dtwyman/petition.html

You can also write to Derek directly at:
Derek Twyman – #0414714
Columbus Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 8
Brunswick, North Carolina
28424 USA

SOLIDARITY WITH ANTI-FASCISTS IN RUSSIA

by Antifa-Net

Anti-fascists are under attack in Russia. Intimidation, terror and murder by a new generation of neo-nazis are daily occurrences. The wave of violence reached a peak this past summer when film of the cold-blooded fascist assassination of two people was posted on the Internet. That this is occurring in a country that lost many millions of people to Hitler's Nazis in WWII is more shocking. The facts speak for themselves:

- 122 people have been killed by fascists since 2005.
- There are 70,000 nazi boneheads in Russia today.
- Anti-fascists are being systematically attacked.
-Perpetrators are often charged only with "hooliganism".

Putin promised to stamp out rightwing extremism but has done little. Anti-fascists are not only few in number, but they are politically isolated in the face of an enemy that whips up hatred and brutality against immigrants and national, ethnic, religious and sexual minorities. Merely "looking anti-fascist" means being targeted by the nazis who patrol parts of most Russian cities. In St. Petersburg and Moscow, nazis gather intelligence to track down anti-fascists, attack and, in some cases, murder them.

The most recent killing took place on March 16, 2008, in Moscow, when about 15 neo-nazis attacked a group of seven people on their way to an antifascist rock concert. A teenager from Noginsk in the Moscow region was stabbed to death. The attack had been discussed on a "Spartak" football team fansite forum. The attack took place near a metro station a short distance from the Kremlin.

The antifascists believe it to be a planned action, because the "Spartak" fan web-site contained instructions on how to conduct reconnaissance in the area of the "Art Garbage" club, where the concert was to take place. Earlier anti-fascist campaigns against the public use of fascist symbols and the sale of racist propaganda achieved some success but the nazis reacted by murdering Professor Nikolai Girenko, one of the most high profile anti-fascist specialists who had supported these campaigns, at his St. Petersburg home.

According to a June 2004 report by Oksana Yablokova, Girenko, 64, "was shot dead in his St. Petersburg apartment…when he went to answer the doorbell at 9 am Saturday, investigators said. The killer fired a rifle through the closed door….Deputy Prosecutor Andrei Zhukov said investigators believe Girenko was killed because of his work as a researcher and expert witness. Over the past two years, he carried out about two dozen studies of neo-Nazi and skinhead groups for Moscow and St. Petersburg authorities. The work has helped lead to several convictions." An extreme nationalist group claimed responsibility for the murder. Russkaya Respublika (Russian Republic), did so in an announcement posted on its website, Rusrepublic.ru, on June 24, 2004.

The authorities talk of the war against Hitler, but from a nationalist standpoint. The nazis claim to be defending "Russian identity" and the toleration of violent nazi gangs stems from the fact that Russian nationalism is touted, even officially, as a remedy for the continuing feelings of defeat resulting from the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Anti-fascists in Russia need financial assistance. With funds, they can produce leaflets, organize campaigns and pay for lawyers. This can only come about through the international solidarity of progressive people, and all anti-fascists and anti-racists outside Russia. Donate to the Russian Human Rights Solidarity Fund Please send donations to: Russian Human Rights Solidarity Campaign, c/o Searchlight, PO Box 1576, Ilford, Essex England IG50NG Or pay directly into our account at: Russian Human Rights Solidarity Campaign, Branch Sort Code: 40-03-36 Account Number: 41284479, IBAN : GB76MIDL40033641284479 SWIFT CODE : IDLGB22 http://www.searchlightmagazine.com/index.php?link=RussiaSolidarity_

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK

FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) **WE GO WHERE THEY GO:** Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) **WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US:** This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) **NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS:** In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) **We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom.** ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, class exploitation and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. **WE INTEND TO WIN!**

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Free the Black Riders!

Editor's Note: Three leading members of the Black Riders Liberation Party, a Los Angeles-based new generation Black Panther-type organization, are facing trumped up conspiracy charges in the LA criminal courts on $1,000,000 bond each. General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out), and comrades Stress and Aryana recently got the judge to dismiss a gang enhancement sought by the DA in an effort to criminalize the entire Party. As we go to press, the DA may be dropping the charges, but only in order to refile and bring back the gang enhancement. This further exposes the baseless and essentially political nature of the case. Meanwhile, BRLP Chief of Staff Nadia Shakur, who was arrested with T.A.C.O. in Pinole, CA is still doing time in San Bernardino on a related frame-up after police, deputies and FBI raided a Black Riders' home in an effort to provoke a shoot-out. Other members of the Riders, including Kambui Sadiki, are fighting charges or facing restrictions on their community organizing due to bogus convictions for political activity.

It is no accident that several of the key targets of this repression are young Black women like Nadia Shakur, whose essay from behind prison walls we are printing below, or a young Black mother and freedom fighter like Aryana Gladney, whose son has been ripped away by the state while she fights these charges. Like the original BPP, the Black Riders' ranks are filled with many African women whose leadership helps sustain the entire community.

What has the impact been of this attempt to criminalize and disorient a group seeking to bring revolutionary African Intercommunal Consciousness on a street level to youths caught up in set tripping and criminality? The Black Riders came under the gun of the LAPD and the courts when three aspects of their program became increasingly successful – building gang truces through political and physical intervention that reduced Black-on-Black hostility by identifying the true enemy; developing a Watch-a-Pig program to deter police abuse and killings in the Black community; and standing up for Black-Brown unity on the basis of anti-imperialist intercommunal solidarity. With many key members locked up and the Party forced to focus resources on defense efforts, all these efforts have been negatively impacted. This has been a factor in the increase in so-called gang violence, the dramatic increase in police killings, and the ratcheting up of Black-Brown tension at the street level in the months since the all-out state onslaught on the BRLP commenced with last summer's raid in San Bernardino. Other factors have of course contributed to all these ills. But the fact that the police and the courts have directed their fire against the one group with the street level credibility to reduce gang hostilities and build solidarity makes it clear that Black on Black violence, Black-Brown rivalry, and police killings are designed to serve the interests of the rulers. The LA elite wants to destabilize Black and Mexicano/indigenous communities of resistance in order to carry out the gentrification of the city and defuse a threat of revolutionary opposition as the economic crisis deepens. This underscores the importance of defending the Black Rider Three.

The state attack has also served, however, to expose and exploit certain weaknesses in the BRLP, based on their self-designation as a 'vanguard," particularly an over-centralized reliance on a military-style discipline and an isolation from elders and other important sectors of the Black and other colonized communities. In understanding the importance of its own role, the Party should learn from the errors of the original Black Panther Party for Self-Defense as well as its successes. To free the Black Riders and rebuild a revolutionary offensive against the empire, a united front is necessary, both within the Black community, and intercommunally among all revolutionary-minded forces of oppressed, colonized and exploited peoples. This requires a more horizontal approach that promotes the leadership and deepens the political capabilities of everyone in the struggle. -- *Editor*

Black faces in High Places: Another game of fascism

By Nadia Shakur, Black Riders Liberation Party Chief of Staff

The counter-revolution of 2008 is not a figment of our imagination, but the malicious, systematic manipulation of our lives in AmeriKKKa. If we continue tro evaluate the progress of the struggle by the dogmatism of the so-called civil rights leaders, then we will fall into a meaningless pit of defeatist reformism. One of the key figures in the effort to transform revolutionary action into criminalistic idealism is none other than Barack Obama. Now before Black people start jumping down my throat, I think you should first sit down and listen to my logic and come to an educated conclusion.

First and foremost, this is not an attack on Obama personally, but a political analysis of his position and of the malignant hypocrisy of a government he is striving so hard to command. In the 453 years since we as African people were first tortured and brought to this country as slaves, we have been fighting for our freedom. Over the years, we have gained some 'rights' to equalize our status to Europeans, but we are still made to be the floor mats of Amerikkkan society. There's no doubt that this is a fascist country, a country built off our free labor, on our backs, from capitalism to the rise of corporations to imperial expansionism through its colonies. Amerikkka is truly a land for the upper class. Now in contemporary times, a few people of color have been allowed to be entered into the aristocracy, thereby giving that old and ridiculously reformist slogan of "picking yourself up by your bootstraps" a seeming validity.

As long as some of 'us' can walk, talk, and live by the standards of the so-called nobility, we feel like we've won, that we're free. But that is the game the fascists play. This level of fascism will spend trillions in wars for economic gain and political domination, in which it kills thousands more and cultivates a society of 'citizens' who live in a state of constant fear, thereby creating the 'necessity' for a militarily obese government that can pry into everybody's business. They obviously have no regard for the rights or equality of their 'citizens' because it took until 2008 for not only a Black man but a white woman to get a chance to be president. The question I pose to the people is, why now?

Is the revolutionary push or threat of the people so strong that they wish to pacify our movement? I believe that's the case. My entire life, I have heard, "What we need is a Black President." But if we get it, it will only because we have reached the final stage in our colonial domination, Neo-Colonialism. Barack Obama will only be a representative of this oppressive government, that has so brutally distorted democracy, not us. Do not put all our faith in this man, do not demobilize and disarm our movement when we are so close to real freedom! If they have played this wild card now, it is because they have no more cards to pull! So we shall call their bluff. You can change the color or gender of the commander-in-chief, but the system of government will not change, it will simply take on a new disguise.

I am not against local political action, because local political consciousness we control, the better the people can control our own communities. This builds the commune. This should correspond with the developing revolutionary acts of a vanguard party. But the class system and its state apparatus must be destroyed without exception. A new system of values, ethics and morality must be instilled in this country, a morality that will not tolerate slavery, exploitation or oppression. Only then can we begin the transformation of this decadent society into a true civilization that doesn't feed off the blood of so many others like some kind of pathological vampire.

The very fact that you need millions of dollars and Ivy League credentials to enlist in their political rat race shows the ruling class nature of the whole electoral process.

So where do we stand now? Should we encourage the masses to vote for Obama as our African enslaved American savior? Or are we our own liberators? I think the point will be proven soon enough if he is elected, that the orders to incarcerate, assassinate and dismantle the movement will still come from the top – and the president is not the top. The ruling elite makes the rules, and sorry, Obama, but you are not part of the pack.

So in conclusion, Obama only means that we must organize and fight harder than ever before. We will not allow this token to assimilate us into their matrix, their false façade of a free country built on truth, liberty and justice for all. That's one of the worst lies this government has ever told, and I hope when Obama looks at that flag he is fighting so adamantly to represent that he really thinks about that statement and the irony of its falsehood.

But we are not dependent on his seeing the light; we never were. Condeleeza Rice and Clarence Thomas have shown us the lengths that a house-negro will go to in order to show their masters that they can be as greedy and cold-hearted as the best of them.

So we push forward, no matter what the outcome of this political rat race, because when it comes down to it, the only thing that can change the Amerikkkan culture is true revolution, and that depends on the Power of the People!

All Power to the People!

No Justice – No Peace!

by
Nadia Shakur, BRLP Chief of Staff

Global warming and polluted air.
Lethal injections and the electric chair.
Ku Klux Klansmen at the County Fair.
The planet's dying and no one cares.
No Justice – No Peace!

Medgar Evers, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X were shot down.
Huey Newton, George Jackson and Fred Hampton, put in the ground.
Bunchy Carter, John Huggins and Lil' Bobby got knocked off.
So excuse the hell out of me if I'm still pissed off.
No Justice – No Peace!

Down with Oppression! Free the Land!
Fight the Power! Take a Stand!
No more begging! No more singing!
Ball our fists and start to swinging!
Tell the rulers, We don't need their police!
No Damn Justice – No Damn Peace!

General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out) [center] with former CRIP and former Blood members of BRLP at funeral of Stanley "Tookie" Williams.

In the Prison-house of Nations

Written and copyright © 3/3/08 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

With the release of the Pew Center on the States report, comes news that proves, without question, that the U.S. is the world's champion, when it comes to incarceration rates:

One out of 100 American adults is in prison today.

According to news reports detailing the Pew Center research, the year 2008 began with 2,319,258 people in U.S. prisons and jails.

No other nation can boast such a raw number, or per capita rate, of incarceration. Not India, which has over 3 times the population, nor China, which has 4 times the U.S. population.

That's because the U.S. transformed its prisons into a job-making program, and a business. The 50 states have spent over $49 billion on their 2007 prison budgets, up from $11 billion spent on the 1987 prison budgets.

Over a decade ago, I warned of precisely this outcome in my book, *Live from Death Row* (1995). That's because we were then in the midst of the incarceration boom, due to tougher and tougher sentencing.

The so-called drug war has fed this binge, and only now, over a decade after the rash and harsh imprisonment of many, many people, the Sentencing Commission is easing the rules on sentencing for possession of crack cocaine vs. powder.

Why would the government ease up?

It may be because the states are drowning in red ink over burgeoning prison costs. Because, decades after the onset of the drug war, in 2005 over 33.6 million Americans over 12 years old used cocaine. As for crack, some 8 million people reported usage of the drug in their lifetime.

If we look at U.S. high school seniors, we find an astonishing figure. In 1975, 1.9% of these students reported cocaine use. In 2005, that number was 2.5%.[1]

So much for the so-called drug war. For these figures show, after billions of dollars were spent on prisons, and an incredible number of people were imprisoned at rates that no other nation has yet faced, the rate of drug use not only hasn't declined, it has increased.

Guess who's winning?

[Note 1: Wright, John W., ed., 2008: The New York Times Almanac (New York: Penguin Books, 2007), p.389.]

WriteAPrisoner.Com

"Write a Prisoner" is a business that allows prisoners to advertise for pen-pals, and people outside the walls to learn more about prison issues and correspond with prisoner. On their website they say:

"If you choose to submit the ad via postal mail, please go to our web-site, http://www.writeaprisoner.com/howtolist.aspx, print and complete an application. If you pay for the inmate's ad, we will permit you to sign the application on the inmate's behalf. Once we receive both the ad content and payment in full, the Inmate's Ad will be posted promptly and will appear under the Newest Members section of our site. You can send an Inmate Ad and/or send Payment via check, money order, or international money order. Be sure to include the inmate's Department of Corrections number and full name. Please make payable to WriteAPrisoner.com and mail to:

WriteAPrisoner.com
P.O. Box 10
Edgewater, FL 32132 USA"

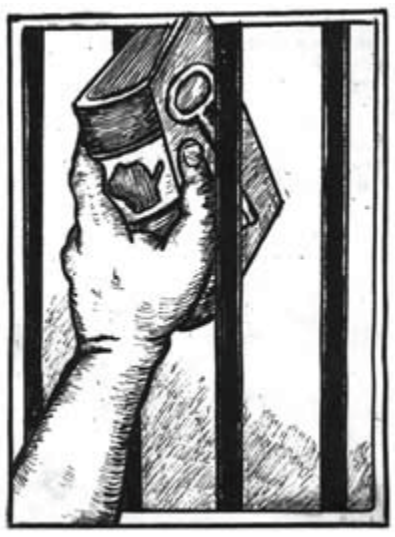
Turning the Tide and ARA-LA/PART are not in a position to evaluate their service beyond what is on the website which seems to make available a number of valuable resources and opportunities. If readers are aware of any comparable free service, we would be glad to publicize it, but for now, as we cannot offer such services ourselves this seems like the next-best thing.

Books to Prisoners Programs around the U.S. (check for state served)

United First Parish Church Prison Book Progr
1306 Hancock Street, Suite 100
Quincy, MA 02169
Phone: 617-423-3298 (no collect calls)
Email: info@prisonbookprogram.org

Prison Book Project
Box 396
Amherst, MA 02004
Phone: 413-584-8975 Ext. 208
Email: prisonbookproject@riseup.net

Books Through Bars
c/o Autumn Leaves Bookstore
115 The Commons
New York, NY 14850



Book 'Em
PO Box 71357
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Women's Prison Book Project
4722 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia , PA 19143

DC Books to Prisoners
C/o The Quixote Center
3502 Barnum Street
Brentwood , MD 20722-1346

Internationalist Prison Books Collective
405 West Franklin St.
Chapel Hill , NC 27516
Email: prisonbooks@gmail.com

The Readers Corner
Attn: Prison Book Program
31 Montford Ave
Ashville , NC 28801
Phone: 828-254-0552
Email: prisonbooks31@hotmail.com

Women's Prison Book Project
c/o Arise Bookstore
2441 Lyndale Ave South
Minneapolis , MN 55405
Email: wpbp@prisonactivist.org

The Books 4 Prisoners Crew
P.O. Box 19065
Cincinnati , OH 45219
Email: b4pcrew@riseup.net

Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project
310A S. Washington
Bloomington , IN 47404
Phone: 812-339-8710
Email: midwestpagestoprisoners@yahoo.com

Louisiana Books2Prisoners
511 Marigny
New Orleans, LA , LA 70117
Email: books2prisoners@riseup.net

Inside Books Project
c/o 12th Street Books
827 W. 12th St.
Austin, TX 78701
Email: insidebooksproject@yahoo.com

Prison Library Project
915 West Foothill Blvd. #128
Claremont , CA 91711

Groundwork Books
0323 Student Center
La Jolla, CA 92037

Prisoner Literature Project c/o Bound Together Bks
1369 Haight Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

Portland Books To Prisoners c/o BTOP
PO Box 11222
Portland, OR 97211
Email: pdxbookstoprisoners@riseup.net

Books to Prisoners
c/o Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street
Seattle, WA 98101
Email: bookstoprisoners@cs.com

Read Between the Bars
PO Box 1589
Tucson AZ 85702-1589
(AZ prisoners only)

Bread and Roses: The 1912 Lawrence Textile Strike

By Joyce Kornbluh

In Jan. 1912 IWW activity focused on a 10-week strike of 25,000 textile workers in Lawrence, MA. It became the most widely publicized IWW conflict, acquainting the nation with the plight of unskilled, foreign-born workers as well as with the Wobbly philosophy of radical unionism. "Lawrence was not an ordinary strike. It was a social revolution in parvo," wrote one observer.

Lawrence was a textile center, #1in woolen and worsted goods. Its principal mills were those of the American Woolen Co., a consolidation of 34 factories whose yearly output was valued at $45,000,000. The mills employed over 40,000, about half Lawrence's population over age 14. Most were unskilled workers who had come from Europe after 1900, attracted by the promises of labor contractors. But U. S. Comm. of Labor Charles Neil reported that for the week ending November 25, 1911, 22,000 textile employees including foremen, supervisors, and office workers, averaged $8.76 for a week's work. In addition, the cost of living was higher in Lawrence than elsewhere. Bread, molasses, and beans were the diet of most workers. Of 22,000 textile workers investigated by Commissioner Neil, over half were women and children. Half the workers in the Lawrence mills of American Woolen were girls aged 14-18. Dr. Elizabeth Shapleigh, a Lawrence physician, wrote: "A considerable number of the boys and girls die within the first 2-3 years after beginning work....36 of every 100 men and women who work in the mill die by age 25," stated Shapleigh.

The IWW claimed 1000members, but only about 300 paid up on its rolls. They sent a letter to the president of American Woolen asking how wages would be affected under a new labor law limiting the workweek to 54 hours. There was no reply. Textile workers realized a 2-hour cut would mean, as IWW publicity pointed out, three fewer loaves of bread each week. Polish women weavers were the first to notice a shortage of 32 cents in their pay envelopes on January 11. They stopped their looms and left, shouting "short pay!" Other outbursts took place throughout Lawrence. The next morning workers at other mills joined the walkout. For the first time, the bells of the Lawrence City Hall rang the general riot alarm. That afternoon a mass meeting was held, and a telegram was sent to Joseph Ettor, IWW Board member, asking that he come from New York to assist the strike.

Ettor, 27, had visited Lawrence in the past. He was known in the Italian community as an organizer who had worked in the shipyards of San Francisco, traveled through mining and lumber camps, and led foreign-born workers in a 1909 steel car strike. Pragmatic and decisive, Ettor could speak English, Italian, and Polish and understand Hungarian and Yiddish. Under his leadership, a strike committee was formed of two representatives from each of the nationalities represented among the mill workers. They met each morning and took charge of the strike. The demands were a 15% increase in wages on a 54-hour workweek, double time for overtime, and no retaliation against any workers for the strike.

In response, Mayor Scanlon ordered a company of local militia to spend the night at the armory and patrol the streets around the mills. Mass picketing and mass arrests started the first week of the strike. It was the first time there had been mass picketing in a New England town. When workers demonstrated, they were drenched by fire hoses. They retaliated by throwing chunks of ice. 36 were arrested and most sentenced to a year in prison. As the judge stated, "The only way we can teach them is to deal out the severest sentences." The governor ordered out the state militia and state police.

A few days after the strike began, Arturo Giovannitti, an Italian poet and orator, came to Lawrence from NY to take charge of strike relief. He came on behalf of *Il Proletario*, the paper he edited for the Italian Socialist Federation. Relief committees, soup kitchens, and food distribution stations were set up by each nationality group. Families received $2-$5 each week from the funds raised in response to the strike committee's appeal. "The problem of relief was so efficiently handled," wrote labor historian Samuel Yellin, "that during the 10-week strike there was no wavering in the strikers' ranks."

"It was the spirit of the workers that was dangerous," wrote labor reporter Mary Heaton Vorse. "They are always marching and singing. The crowds flowing perpetually into the mills had waked and opened their months to sing."

Less than a week after the strike started, the police found dynamite in a tenement house, an empty lot, and a shoemaker's shop next door to the print shop where Ettor received his mail. The press and the police were quick to assign guilt to the strikers. The IWW claimed that the *Boston-American,* a Hearst paper, was on sale with the details of the discovery *before* the dynamite was actually found. Soon after, John Breen, a member of the Lawrence school board, was arrested and charged with planting the explosives to discredit the workers. He was fined $500 and released on bail. President Wood of American Woolen was implicated, but cleared though he couldn't explain why he had recently made a cash payment to Breen.

One of the largest demonstrations took place on January 29. That evening, independent of the earlier demo, a woman striker, was killed when police tried to break up a picket line. The strikers said she was shot by a Lawrence police officer. Nevertheless, Ettor and Giovannitti, who were miles away talking to a meeting of German workers, were arrested as "accessories to murder" and charged with provoking the violence. They were refused bail and imprisoned for eight months without trial. Martial law was enforced following their arrest. City officials declared all public meetings illegal, and Lawrence authorities called out 22 more militia companies on patrol. A militiaman killed a 15-year-old Syrian boy in another clash.

The arrest was aimed at disrupting the strike. But the Wobblies sent Bill Haywood, William Trautmann, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, and Carlo Tresca, an Italian anarchist, to Lawrence. More than 15,000 strikers met Haywood at the station and carried him to the Common, where he addressed a group of 25,000 strikers. They sang the *Internationale* in their various tongues. Haywood urged passive resistance, but this took many forms. One innovation was an endless picket line of thousands, who marched through the mill districts with white arm bands reading, "Don't scab." When this was disrupted by police, crowds of mill workers would move in and out of stores, not buying anything. As the head of the police later testified, "They had our shopkeepers in a state of terror; it was a question whether or not they would shut up their shops."

By far the most dramatic episode of the strike involved sending the strikers' children to sympathetic families in other cities. About 120 children left Lawrence on February 10 and in were placed in homes that had been selected by a women's committee of sympathizers. Margaret Sanger, later famous for her work in birth control, was one of the nurses who accompanied the children on the train. She testified before Congress: "Of the 119 children, only four had underwear ... their outerwear was in rags . . . their coats torn to shreds ... and it was the bitterest weather we have had this winter." 92 more children arrived in NY and paraded down Fifth Avenue. Alarmed, Lawrence authorities ordered that no more children could leave the city. On Feb. 24 when a group of 150 more children made ready to leave for Philadelphia, 50 police and two militia companies surrounded the train station. They tore children from their parents, threw women and children into a patrol wagon, and detained 30. One woman testified: "The children, two by two in an orderly procession with the parents near, were about to make their way to the train when the police...closed in on us with their clubs, beating with no thought of the children who were in desperate danger of being trampled to death. The mothers and the children were thus hurled in a mass and bodily dragged to a military truck and even then clubbed, irrespective of the cries of the mothers and children."

This was the turning point of the strike. Protests from every part of the country reached Congress. In March, a House Committee heard testimony from Lawrence strikers including girls under 16. The young workers testified that the companies held back a week of their wages, required them to do unpaid clean-

Women workers still struggle for justice today.

up work on Saturdays, and made them pay to get drinking water in the mills. So great was national indignation, President Taft ordered an investigation of industrial conditions throughout the nation. Concerned over public reaction, and the possible threat to their tariff protection, American Woolen Co. agreed to the strikers' demands on Mar. 12. The rest of the Lawrence textile companies fell in line. Wages were raised for textile workers in all New England. And on Mar. 30 the children in NY were brought home.

The trial of Ettor and Giovannitti began in Salem, MA, at the end of September; it lasted two months. The defendants were kept in metal cages in the courtroom. Crowds waited outside to cheer them as they entered and left. Delegations visited Taft at his summer home to plead for the prisoners' release. The prosecution accused them of inciting the strikers to murder, though witnesses proved that they were speaking to a meeting of workers miles from where LoPizzo was shot. Two Pinkertons testified that Giovannitti had urged strikers to "sleep in the daytime and prowl like wild beasts at night." But the detectives admitted that the speech they referred to was in Italian, and they had no written notes of the meeting to quote. Before the end of the trial, Ettor said in part: "Does the DA believe . . . that the gallows or guillotine ever settled an idea? An idea lives because history judges it right. I ask only for justice.... The scaffold has never yet and never will destroy an idea or a movement.... Whatever my social views are, they are what they are. They cannot be tried in this courtroom." On Nov. 26, the men were acquitted and released.

Mdembership in the Lawrence IWW local swelled to 10,000 in the year after the strike but dropped to 400 by 1914 as a depression cut into employment. Textile bosses initiated espionage in the mills to counter any further radical influence. A 50% speedup of machines after 1912 led to additional unemployment and offset the wage increase in the settlement. But the immediate effect of the Lawrence strike was to hearten workers in other areas and to prepare for the strike in the Paterson mills. The strike made a profound impression on the public and the rest of labor by dramatizing the living and working conditions of unorganized, foreign-born workers in crowded industrial areas, and communicating the spirit of their rebellion. Literary critic Ken McGowan wrote: "Whatever its future, the IWW has accomplished one tremendous thing, … the individual awakening of 'illiterates' and 'scum' to an original conception of society and the realization of the dignity and rights of their part in it. They have learned more than class consciousness; they have learned consciousness of Self..."

This was a fitting interpretation of the spirit of the striking mill girls who carried picket signs which read:

WE WANT BREAD AND ROSES TOO.

Source: Kornbluh, *Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology*, Charles H. Kerr Publishing, Chicago, 1988

STOPMAX Conference: May 30, 2008-June 1st, 2008
Student Activity Center, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

by Naima Black, AFSC

Featured Speakers
Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, human rights activist, former boxer, exonerated from a triple life sentence.
Jimmy Santiago Baca, poet, teacher, and former Supermax prisoner.
Susan Rosenberg, former political control unit prisoner
Terry Kupers M.D., psychiatrist, author, and expert witness in several class action lawsuits on the quality of mental health services inside control unit prisons and jails.

The conference kick-off event on Friday evening May 30th , at Eastern State Penitentiary, where solitary confinement was first practiced in the United States, will feature:
Rubin Hurricane Carter
Aztec dancers with loved ones in isolation;
A Thousand Kites theatrical performance,
A reading of names of isolation prisoners.

Human Rights Training workshops will take place the following two days. In the STOPMAX Campaign Plenary, STOPMAX staff and partners will give an overview of the history of the campaign and its future goals. In a panel of Survivors of Isolation, you can hear directly from people who have endured solitary confinement and torture in US prisons. A workshop on *Juvenile Life Without Parole(JLWOP): Human Rights Abuses and International Law* will address human rights abuses of youth sentenced to JLWOP

The conference will also include:

Converting a Supermax through Litigation/Negotiations- learn about the strategies employed to reduce the use of isolation at Mississippi Parchman Prison's notoriously brutal Unit 32

Recognizing Families Role in Re-entry - interactive workshop led by experienced family members and former prisoners focused on empowering families to understand and support the specific needs of prisoners returning from solitary confinement.

Regional Strategic Planning Meetings- meet with families, former prisoners and activists to plan regional campaign efforts

Nightwind: Hector Aristizábal's theatrical portrayal of transformation from torture by the US-supported military in Columbia

Up the Ridge: a Thousand Kites documentary performance on the Supermax at Wallens Ridge, VA

For more information and to register, contact http://www.afsc.org/stopmax/ or call or email Naima Black, Coordinator, National STOPMAX Campaign, 215-241-7137, stopmax@afsc.org

FOR THE SLAVES
WHO DON'T KNOW THAT THEY ARE SLAVES

by
Ras Jahaziel

How come you have been the busiest and the hardest workers from generation to generation, for over 500 years on Hell plantation, and yet today the vast majority of you are little more than SQUATTERS and Concrete Nomads, living from rent to rent on the land of your enslavement, and there is no place that you can call your own?

YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE BUSIEST AND THE HARDEST WORKERS ON THE PLANTATION.

From dawn till dusk, from sun-up till sun-down, from 8 till 4, from 9 till 5, from century to century till this present day, you have been FORCED AND COMPELLED BY SEEN AND UNSEEN FORCES to build another man's house. And yet at the beginning of the twenty-first century the vast majority of you scotch in someone else's house on someone-else's land, because there is no place that you can call your own.

Even when you think you own your house you do so at the expense of LIFE-LONG SERVICE TO THE PLANTATION and if you dare take a break, the real owner will show up at your gate and you will have to hurriedly evacuate.

LOOK AT YOURSELF AND ARISE FROM YOUR STUPOR.

Arise and look at the shepherds that lead you like blind sheep, and ask yourself why they do not speak this truth about your continuing enslavement. They are either blind sheep too or they are collaborators because it is profitable to collaborate with the master.

Your parents, your uncles, your aunts, your cousins, your grandfathers and your grandmothers and their parents and their grandparents have always been THE BUSIEST AND THE HARDEST WORKERS ON THE PLANTATION, generation after generation after generation. And still today you own nowhere and yet you say that slavery is a thing of the past. Look around at all the construction that is going on, look at all the buildings that are going up to the sky and ask your-self who owns them. Look around and take a careful assessment of EVERYTHING THAT YOU NEED AND EVERYTHING THAT YOU DEPEND ON and ask yourself who owns it all. Why is it that after five hundred years of hard labor you still do not own and control THE MOST VITAL NECESSITIES THAT YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON?

WHAT REALLY IS SLAVERY?

Do you really understand what slavery is?
Slavery is a condition where you are FORCED AND COMPELLED every day to build another man's wealth, and your LABOR and your STRENGTH, and your TIME on earth do not contribute to your own progress.

Yesterday the forces that compelled you were clear and visible and very physical. Today the forces that drive and compel you are unseen to the physical eye, but if you study the economic matrix that governs your life you will see how you are still being driven, still being forced, and still being compelled to labor in an evil system where somebody else gets wealthy and you barely get enough to keep you working till you die.

So if today after five hundred years of hard labor you still do not own and control anything, not even the very basic necessities that your life depends on, then it is because you are either CURSED OR ENSLAVED. It has to be one or the other. Please take a reality check and ask yourself which one it is.

The slave-master has tricked you by placing a righteous cloak on the system of evil. He has enlisted the help of "MEN OF THE CLOTH" to blindfold you with superstition and SPIRIT-ISM so that your eyes will not see the stark naked truth of your present reality.

He has deceived you by constantly parading before your eyes the very small minority of fatted Negroes that he has deliberately fattened with wealth. These are the SMOKE-SCREEN NEGROES who are used to contradict the truth of the bondage that keeps down the vast majority. These are used to feed you the story that there are no chains and no restrictions on your progress, because according to their mantra "IF I DID IT ANYBODY CAN DO IT". It is time to think. Ask yourself why something that anybody can do is only accomplished by a very small minority, despite the fact that the vast majority have been sweating, working, laboring, trying, and dying for centuries without ever accomplishing the thing that anybody can do.

If hard work is supposed to pay, how come from generation to generation the hardest workers have still gotten nowhere? How come every new generation of Black children rises up to find the same LANDLESS-NESS and the same POWERLESS-NESS and they are still saddled with RENT TO PAY?

In the natural order of things every generation builds on the accomplishments of past generations. If each new generation is still landless and still powerless it has to be because the accomplishments of fathers and forefathers continue to benefit someone else.

Ask yourself how come the vast majority of you live on a string from rent to rent in uncertainty and total vulnerability so that if the white man catches a cold you are the first to die? Did Katrina not uncover the truth of your powerless hand to mouth reality?

But you have been DOMESTICATED like a cat or a dog and that is why you question not your present-day slave reality. You have been domesticated and indoctrinated to come to terms with and accept the official rationale for continued slavery. And that is why in the midst of your bondage you will not accept that it is slavery unless the slave-master tells you that it is slavery, or unless the Church tells you that it is slavery, or unless the University tells you that it is slavery. And that is because you cannot see that every institution on a slave plantation is part of the apparatus of slavery and slave-master dominion.

Just for one moment, look away from the small minority that fill the parade of "successful Blacks" and look at the vast majority. Look at the totality of their condition, and if your eyes are truly open, you will be forced to conclude that they are indeed EITHER CURSED OR ENSLAVED.

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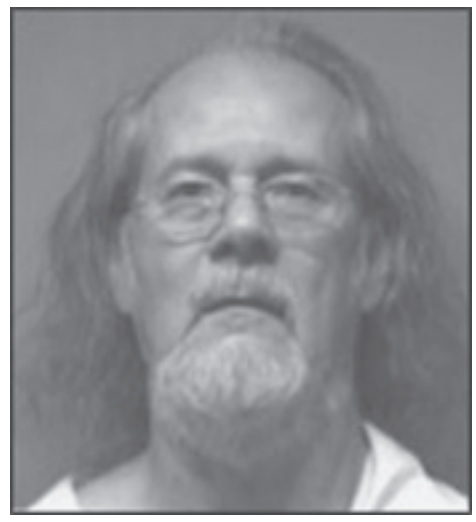
Avelino González -- A Tireless Fighter for Puerto Rico

by Friends and Family of Avelino González Claudio

In August of 1985, Avelino González, along with other Puerto Ricans and 2 North Americans, were accused of having participated in the planning and authorization of an operation to secure $7,117,000.00 from a Wells Fargo armored truck in Hartford, Connecticut on September 12, 1983. That operation was carried out by the then PRTP-Macheteros. They are accused of being part of the Central Committee and Political Commission of the PRTP-Macheteros. Avelino, his brother Norberto and Victor Gerena, the main person accused, could not be arrested at that time. Norberto and Victor remain underground to this day.

The charges against those arrested that year ended in a trial of a group of the accused (Carlos Ayes, Filiberto Ojeda, Juan Segarra, Norman Ramirez and Roberto Maldonado) in 1989 and finally led to a political-legal agreement in 1992 with the accused Orlando González, Hilton Fernández Diamante, Jorge A. Farinacci, Isaac Camacho, Elías Castro and Angel Días Ruiz and later led to another trial of the accused Ivone Meléndez Carrión. The legal agreement reached recognized the Macheteros as a political organization that fights for the independence of their homeland.



Avelino was born in the town of Vega Baja on October 8, 1942. Since his days as a student in the public schools of his country he established himself as a fighter for the freedom of his homeland. Upon entering the University of Puerto Rico he became a member of the Pro-Independence University Federation (Federación Universitaria Pro Independencia –FUPI), a student organization founded in 1956 that has stood out for its struggle for university reforms to improve conditions at the university for our people. Avelino became its vice-president. Avelino stood out as one of its best militants and as a person for whom no task was too small or too big to take on. Since becoming a student he embraced socialist ideas as his own, becoming a constant student of the history of our working people and their struggles, as well as, studying the socialist ideological classics. He always stood out for his knowledge of the history of the workers' international struggles and their revolutions.

He married in the mid-1960's and had 4 children who today are part of the professional classes of our country. At that time he moved to New York City where he lived until the beginning of the 1970's. He worked in Wall Street in that city while he carried out political work with the Puerto Rican community and organized part of the resistance of the revolutionary forces that were beginning to organize themselves in "the belly of the Yankee beast" and had begun to stand out by the end of the 1960's. Avelino became part of the leadership of the Vito Marcantonio Mission of the Movimiento Pro-Independencia (MPI) in New York.

Avelino returned to his homeland to integrate into the political work where he stands out as one of its most capable and disciplined leaders. At the time of the arrests in 1985 he was known for his role in the administration of the operations of the political magazine Pensamiento Crítico (Critical Thought). It is at that time that he becomes one of the Puerto Ricans most sought by the enemy and he transforms himself into the citizen José Ortega.

Upon getting to know Avelino as one of the leaders most committed with his ideas of freedom for our homeland and the program of struggle of his organization, we do not doubt that he has been in the heart of our people, struggling alongside them for their civil rights to freedom and social justice for its working classes. Many have been the trenches of struggle of this well-known leader and militant of the revolutionary struggles of our people and its movement for national liberation for the past 50 years. Following the arrests of August 30, 1985, Avelino became part of the struggles of our people as "José Ortega". For the past 22 years he eluded the enemy and was able to participate not only in the struggle for our people's liberation but also as a worker and computer teacher, where he realized work for the improvement of the services provided by the Department of Education of Puerto Rico.

Avelino Gonzalez Claudio, also known as Jose Ortega, is a Puerto Rican political prisoner captured by the U.S. and accused of participation in the ***Macheteros***, a clandestine pro-indepedence organization that has carried out attacks on US military targets in Puerto Rico, expropriations, and denounced from clandestinity a recent wave of repression, including the assassination of ***Machetero*** leader Filiberto Ojeda Rios last year on the anniversary of Puerto Rico's call for independence.--*Editor.*

> Avelino is known for his calm tolerant manner but at the same time for his firmness in the expression of his positions and political ideas. For him there is no room for hypocrisy when it's time to combat ideas that he considers incorrect. His personality, his demeanor and his ideas regarding the necessity for unity in the liberation movement led him to always espouse that differences should not be a motive for divisions. He has never been heard to make mean-spirited or derogatory accusations of those he has political differences, either in his organization or toward those outside it with whom he has differences because of their political practice or strategy. He said in his first communication after his arrest, " . . . Pandora left desperation out of her box and because of this they may chain and imprison my body, but never my spirit and my ideas."

Avelino today finds himself incarcerated in a state prison in the city of Hartford in conditions of "maximum security". 23 hours in isolation in a jail cell, with one hour to get fresh air, with no access to his family and denied communication by telephone with his family members, his lawyers or friends. They propose to judge him, as they have his comrades in struggle, faraway from his Puerto Rican homeland. The U.S. government must recognize Avelino's status as a fighter for independence and a political prisoner, as he demanded in its imperial courts! We know that Avelino is man in very good health at the time of his arrest and we hope that he remains so. Any change in his health condition will be the responsibility of his enemy jailers. Let Us Support the Defense of Avelino!

Comité familiares y Amigos de Avelino González Claudio, apartado postal #22282, San Juan. P.R.00931-2282, avelinogonzalezclaudio@yahoo.com

For the Unconditional Sovereignty of the Puerto Rican People, the National Independence of Puerto Rico, and the Unconditional Release of the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners and Prisoners Of War

by
Lawrence Reyes, Coordinator, Puerto Rican Alliance Of Los Angeles

Oscar Lopez Rivera and Carlos Alberto Torres, and Haydee Beltran, imprisoned since April 4, 1980, are symbols of Puerto Rican resistance and national identity. Come celebrate the Puerto Rican culture of resistance with Puerto Rican ex-political prisoner, artist and filmmaker Dylcia Pagan. Dylcia was convicted of seditious conspiracy to overthrow the government of the U.S. in Puerto Rico for advocating for the self-determination and liberation of Puerto Rico and its people from US colonialism and oppressive policies of political and economic subjugation.

From the environmental destruction of Vieques by its occupational military-industrial complex, to the FBI and CIA's new COINTELPRO tactics against advocates of independence, the yoke of the United States government over Puerto Rico has been criminal and illegal. We demand that the UN Charter, Resolutions 1213, 1214 and other UN resolutions past and present be adhered to. Under these resolutions calling for the decolonization of Puerto Rico and its people, and calling colonialism a 'Crime against Humanity,' we call for the World Court in the Hague to file 'Crime Against Humanity' charges against the US government on behalf of the Puerto Rican people and the Island Nation known as Puerto Rico.

We further call for the unconditional release of Puerto Rico Prisoners Of War and political prisoners Oscar Lopez and Carlos Alberto Torres, Haydee Beltran and Avelino Gonzales.

We also call for the release of all political prisoners such as Mumia Abu-Jamal and Leonard Peltier, as their human rights have been repeatedly violated by the US. We also assert the people's right as human beings to move about the world and recognize no borders or barriers of the occupational forces violating the free movement of human beings. We call for charges to be filed against the US government for restricting human beings from freely traveling within the Americas by building borders, walls or fences in direct violation of human rights. Further we call for the return of the so-called 'Southwest' to its native inhabitants and the people of Mexico and their descendants, the Xicano/a people of the occupied lands.

Como Siempre, Pa'lante en la Lucha!

"This occupation is unconstitutional and illegal and I hereby lawfully refuse to participate."-Sgt. Chiroux, Iraq GI resister

by Courage to Resist, May 15, 2008

Sgt. Matthis Chiroux served in the Army until being honorably discharged from active duty last summer after over four years in Afghanistan, Japan, Europe and the Philippines. Today he publicly announced that he is refusing orders to be recalled from the Army's Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR) to deploy to Iraq. Matthis took this courageous stand in the Cannon House Office Building Rotunda after fellow members of Iraq Veterans Against the War testified before the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Here's his statement: "My name is Sgt. Matthis Chiroux, and I served in the Army as a Photojournalist until being honorably discharged last summer after over four years of service in Afghanistan, Japan, Europe and the Philippines. As an Army journalist whose job it was to collect and filter servicemember's stories, I heard many stomach-churning testimonies of the horrors and crimes taking place in Iraq. For fear of retaliation from the military, I failed to report these crimes, but never again will I allow fear to silence me. Never again will I fail to stand. In February, I received a letter from the Army ordering my return to active duty, for the purpose of mobilization for Operation Iraqi Freedom. This occupation is unconstitutional and illegal and I hereby lawfully refuse to participate as I will surely be a party to war crimes. Furthermore, deployment in support of illegal war violates all of my core values as a human being, but in keeping with those values, I choose to remain in the United States to defend myself from charges brought by the Army if they so wish to pursue them. I refuse to participate in the occupation of Iraq. To donate to Iraq Veterans Against the War Legal Fund to support Matthis, use their online donation form and select "Legal Fund" under special projects. If you would like to send a message of support to Sgt Matthis Chiroux, email thankyoumatthis@ivaw.org

Army to court martial objector Ryan Jackson May 30

Ryan's court martial has been rescheduled for Friday, May 30—it was originally Tuesday, June 3. The "Free Ryan Now!" vigil outside of Ft. Gordon is rescheduled for Thursday evening, May 29. War objector Army PFC Ryan Jackson was temporarily moved from his brig cell last week and arraigned at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Ryan was formally charged with multiple counts of AWOL stemming from his attempt to be released from the Army prior to Iraq deployment. He will face a Special Court Martial—with a maximum one year prison sentence—on Friday, May 30. Since voluntarily returning to Fort Gordon on April 14 and formally applying for a conscientious objector discharge, Ryan has been held in pre-trial confinement at the Charleston Navel Brig.

25-year old PFC Jackson joined the Army in 2005, and aspired to join the Special Forces. While stationed in Korea, inspired by the writings of Vietnam and Iraq war objectors, Jackson began to rethink his involvement in the Army. "Since I joined up with Courage to Resist and Iraq Veterans Against the War, my life has changed. I plan to write a book about all of this, and to make positive change in my community when I get out," said AWOL PFC Ryan Jackson, before turning himself in at Fort Sill, Oklahoma on April 4. He had been absent without leave since December when a local commander vetoed his pending discharged from the 35th Signal Brigade at Fort Gordon, Georgia. "I feel ashamed every day," Jackson wrote in his recent conscientious objector (CO) application. "I feel ashamed for taking part in the killing of others, and for allowing my comrades to be killed themselves. By putting on a uniform, I am showing my support. … I can no longer be a part of the Armed Forces or any organization of a violent nature." After two and a half years of honorable service, Ryan says he could no longer ignore his conscience. "Once my beliefs started to evolve and change, I became a different person," he explains. "It starts to take a hold of you, giving you hope that you can make a difference, that you can change what you are doing, and that it is not too late!" Courage to Resist collected and forwarded over 100 messages of support to Ryan. At this time we are asking that you send messages directly to Ryan at the Charleston Naval Brig: Ryan Jackson, 1050 Remount Rd, Bldg 3107, Charleston SC 29406-3515

If he is sentenced to additional brig time beyond that which he has already served in pre-trial confinement, he will be returned to the Charleston Naval Brig for the remaining sentence.Ryan asks that donations to his legal and political defense be made to Courage to Resist. To donate by check, note "Ryan Jackson" on the memo line, and send payable to Courage to Resist/IHC, 484 Lake Park Ave #41, Oakland CA 94610. All donations are tax-deductible. Courage to Resist is committed to covering Ryan's legal defense, and helping him launch his upcoming career of peace activism when he is finally released from the Army. He is currently being represented by civilian attorney James Branum, co-chair of the National Lawyer's Guild Military Law Task Force, and Fort Gordon JAG officer Captain Kenny. Media contact Fort Gordon Media Relations at 706-791-6001.

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TURNING THE TIDE

Empires Crumble, Rulers Tumble, but Love is Here to Stay

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IneQuality of Life Policing in Venice, CA

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The Alliance of White Nationalism and Black Reaction

By Michael Novick, *Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror* (ARA-LA/PART)

The specter of a major candidate for the Democratic Party nomination for President of the US running as a naked white nationalist was one that many thought had been put to rest in the 1920s, after the decline of the WWI era Ku Klux Klan. Yet Hillary Clinton has resurrected that grim reality recently in announcing that her candidacy represented "hard-working Americans, white Americans." Although it still seems likely at this writing that her personal candidacy is doomed to defeat, the grip of that ideology in large sectors of the white electorate in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky and other states has been quite evident. And her success in drawing many white voters to that explicitly white banner is being emulated by other politicians.

Tony Zirkle, a South Bend attorney and Republican candidate for Indiana's 2nd District congressional seat, standing in front of giant portrait of Adolf Hitler, addressed a meeting of the American National Socialist Workers Party in Chicago on April 20, celebrating Hitler's birthday. Zirkle spoke next to people wearing swastika armbands and with a nazi flag in the background for the speech. He defended his actions by saying: "I'll speak before any group that invites me. I've spoken on an African-American radio station in Atlanta." He compared his speech to other politicians appearing at Bob Jones University. He claimed his intention was to talk on his concern about "the targeting of young white women … for pornography and prostitution." In March, Zirkle raised the idea of segregating races in separate states. Zirkle said later he's not advocating segregation, but said desegregation has been a failure. Zirkle received 30 percent of the vote in the 2006 Indiana primary, losing to incumbent Chris Chocola, who was defeated in the general election. Zirkle told the press that winning the election is not his primary goal. "My primary purpose is to educate and inform."

Here in southern Calfornia, openly racist figures from the anti-immigrant movement such as Joe Turner of Save Our State and a former leader of the vigilante Minuteman have run for office in the Inland Empire and Orange County respectively, both losing. In Los Angeles, William Daniel Johnson, aka Bill Johnson, the author of the racist Pace Amendment to restrict US citizenship exclusively to people of white European descent, is running for a judge's seat in the June 3 election. Johnson has always been more covert in his racism, using the pseudonym "Pace" to author the proposed constitutional amendment, for example. He has run for office unsuccessfully previously, including for the Congressional seat opened up when Dick Cheney became vice-president. Johnson's odd political career emphasizes another aspect of the white supremacist movement – its willingness, indeed interest, in making common cause with reactionary, neo-colonial elements in the Black community in order to disguise the racist nature of its program. This tendency goes back to the World War I KKK which sought meetings with Garvey, even while attacking other elements in the Black liberation struggle of the time. Johnson, in Pace Amendment Advocates, supported the repatriation of people of African descent to Africa, and hooked up with a Black pseudo-nationalist named Robert Brock, a member of the Board of Policy of the anti-semitic and anti-immigrant Liberty Lobby. Brock's argument was that he preferred to work with an open white racist that with covertly-racist white liberals. He fronted for the Populist Party in L.A. (the party of David Duke, Bo Gritz and open neo-nazi Joe Fields).

The current day reincarnation of Brock (who left for greener pastures in DC) is pro-police, pro-Republican charlatan Ted Hayes, who has lined up with the "minuteKlan" anti-immigrant hysteria, and particularly with "Save Our State," (the most thuggish of the anti-immigrant, anti-Mexican groups, whose members spout openly racist diatribes in their on-line discussion groups) and the California Coalition for Immigration Reform (CCIR). Joe Fields, the above-mentioned leader of the local Nazi party, was one of the founding organizers of the CCIR, which also included other openly racist anti-immigrant groups. CCIR was a major force in the unconstitutional Proposition 187, which would have denied medical care or education to the children of undocumented workers, and deputized health care and education providers, teachers and nurses, to ferret out the immigration status of patients and students. An associate in Orange County drove his car at several immigrants rights demonstrators last years, hitting two, including the executive director of the National Lawyers Guild.

In the wake of 9-11, Hayes, once the self-styled "king of the homeless," has draped himself in the flag, anti-communism and anti-terrorism, and made common cause with the most retrograde forces in the anti-immigrant movement while claiming he is doing so to defend the Black community. Two years ago, he showed up at an anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant protest outside a mosque in Culver City, driving a truck bearing a lynching-in-effigy. This has been consistent with Hayes's long-term reactionary pro-police politics (Hayes lived in Orange County and raked in big bucks from ARCO while claiming to speak for the homeless). He has showed up at hearings to defend the LAPD against charges of abuse, and some years ago, sic'ed the LAPD on a Food Not Bombs chapter feeding the homeless in Pershing Square downtown (an act of harassment that resulted in a lawsuit against the city and the LAPD).

Last year, Hayes led "minute-klan" rallies at Leimert Park in the heart of LA's Crenshaw Black community. In one, he was met by an impromptu gathering of neighborhood residents and activists who chased him off. The second time, allegedly celebrating "June 'Teenth" (the anniversary of Texas learning about the Emancipation Proclamation on June 19), Hayes led a permitted march and rally with police protection of a few Black supporters and a few more white anti-immigrant marchers from SOS and CCIR. His march and rally was met by a spirited and organized resistance from the community, led by the Black Riders Liberation Party, Union del Barrio, Puerto Rican Alliance and other groups. Hayes ended up getting himself arrested. In the same period, he also fronted for a 'minuteKlan' counter demonstration against a downtown immigrants' rights march. For a year, he has been propagandizing against the Black Riders, smearing them in statements to the Black press and showing up at the court proceedings against them in the company of his buddies on the LAPD. He has also been attacking Black radio public affairs personality Dominique Di Prima (daughter of Black revolutionary activist and cultural figure Amiri Baraka) who exposed the white racist involvement in Hayes's anti-immigrant partners.

Now Hayes and his white racist allies in SOS and CCIR are planning two new provocations in Los Angeles, on Saturday, June 21 in downtown Los Angeles and "reclaiming" Leimert Park on Sunday, June 29. Hayes and SOS have been opportunistically focusing on the tragic killing of a Black high school athlete, Jamiel Shaw, by an undocumented gang member, while ignoring the dozen or more killings this year by the LAPD (and the larger number of killings of Black youth by other Black youth, and Mexicanos by other Mexicanos). SOS is quite up front on their message boards that they are seeking to break up Black-Brown unity and provoke and promote Black-Brown infighting. They seek to use Black people as shock troops in their anti-immigrant campaign.

Anti-Racist Action-LA is supporting and helping organize anti-racist white participation in counter-demonstrations against both provocations by Hayes and SOS. Our demands are: Reparations for African People! Legalization for Migrant Workers! End the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and all colonial US military occupation! For more information in how you can get involved, including an upcoming planning meeting on Monday June 9. And follow-up events including anti-racist cultural and educational work such as concerts and film showings, call us at 310-495-0299, or email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

Liberal nostrums will not do to deal with this wave of white nationalism and it Black reactionary partners. The displacements of gentrification and globalization, the deepening economic crisis of imperialism, are unleashing fascist-type forces looking for scapegoats. White prison gangs like the Aryan Brotherhood and the PEN1 Skins may make common cause with the Mexican Mafia at the same time that anti-immigrant thugs on the streets line up with Black neo-colonial puppets like Ted Hayes. Only a revolutionary internationalist, anti-racist and anti-authoritarian solidarity can confront these shifting alliances and their use by the police and state security forces to serve powerful economic interests. Only that approach can win significant sectors of white working people to challenge the snares of racism, privilege and identification with the oppressor – in alliance with the liberation forces of oppressed and colonized people – to challenge the whole racist power structure and its edifice of exploitation.

Counter protest against
Save Our State/Ted Hayes
Broadway March to City Hall Rally
(listed as "June 21-22")
and Leimert Park (Sunday June 29)!
March with ARA and community allies for Reparations, Legalization and Decolonization, Against Racism and War!

Food Wars

column written 4/21/08 and copyright (c) 2008 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Like a shadowy echo out of history, angry throngs massed at the Big House in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. But this time, they were not clamoring for freedom. Or, if they were, it was for freedom from hunger.

Their protests shook the government, and forced the Prime Minister, Jacques-Edourd Alexis, to step down.

Several years ago, we saw massive protests in Oaxaca, Mexico, against exorbitant hikes in corn prices, the grain which forms the basis, and is the staple of the national diet (tortillas and tacos). In Egypt, bread prices are so high that the army has been called in to stifle dissent, and to distribute bread. Wheat, corn and other such grains are becoming so expensive that millions of people around the world are seriously threatened by hunger.

The cause? In truth, there are many, but perhaps chief among them is speculation and anticipated demand for bio fuels, or the use of grains to produce fuel to run cars.

Many grains are held off the food markets, to await better prices for bio fuels. In other words, people are going hungry -- facing starvation - so that people can pump fuel into cars. If ever there was an encapsulated image of the mercenary nature of capitalism, it can be seen in this one example: filling cars instead of feeding people.

This is also a window into what we have come to call globalism.

There are 5 major companies that control some 85% of the world's grain trade, and nearly half of the world's grain production. As huge multinationals, will they utilize this power to feed the people of the world, or to maximize profits?

The answer is obvious.

And even though kids in American schools aren't taught this truth, the fact of the matter is we all live closer to the age of gasoline than the age of the atom. For every item we purchase, from food to coats, from jewelry to DVD's, bears the cost of transportation in its price, and as the price of gas soars, that price is passed on to the consumer. So fuel exacts a kind of double tax when it comes to grains. Through speculation and transfer to bio fuels, all such grain prices rise. To this is added the price of transport.

The logic of the market leads to mass starvation.

[Source: Esteva, Gustavo and Madhu Suri Prakash, "From Global to Local: Beyond Neo liberalism to the International of Hope," in The Globalization Reader, 3d ed. Frank J. Lechner & John Boli, eds., p.455]

April 19th and 20th Mumia Event Report back from Philly

by Prisoners Of Conscience Committee Minister of Information JR

When the POCC crew reached 6th and Market in Philly on April 19th, where political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal's 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals hearing was heard almost a year earlier, we were greeted by hundreds of protesters occupying all four corners of the intersection. They were chanting "Free Mumia," with signs everywhere. A few weeks earlier, the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals denied Mumia's appeal for a fair trial. This was despite the fact that the prosecutor kicked off 10 potential jurors on the sole basis that they were Black, and the presiding judge was overheard saying, "Im gonna help them fry the nigger", in reference to Abu-Jamal. And this is after the appeal judges refused to even consider evidence pointing to Mumia's innocence, like the confession from Arnold Beverly, who claims that he killed the pig that Mumia is languishing in prison over, and like some recently discovered crime scene photos that explicitly show Philly police tampering with the evidence. That has come to light since the "legal theater" which they euphemistically called a trial concluded in the early 80's. The Philly protest was just one of the protests held in response to the internation call put out by the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu Jamal (ICFFMAJ). People got into the streets to protest the legal lynching that the government is trying to set the stage for.

Political heavyweights were being managed by Pam Africa, the chairwoman of the ICFFMAJ to come back stage to speak at the pre-rally, before the march. Green Party presidential candidate and former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, a longtime supporter of political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal was the first to speak, and was followed by political attorney Lynn Stewart, who is currently fighting to not be a political prisoner herself. After the 30 minute or so pre-rally, the protesters on all of the corners grouped up, and began to march in the streets, with the final destination being city hall. Once we began, a group of drummers traveling from New York beat on their drums of all sizes as a backdrop to chants like "Back Up, Back Up, We Want Freedom Freedom, All those Dirty Ass Cops, We Don't Need'em Need'em!" and "No Justice, No Peace, Until Mumia Abu-Jamal is Released!" There were people of all nationalities and ages, who came from all over the world to be a part of this demonstration. I met an organizer from St. Denice France, who helped to organize for the Mumia street out there in 2006. Pam Africa's daughters Pixie and Rose of the MOVE organization, were keeping their eyes on a number of youngstas while they had smaller ones on their hips. A number of elderly people came out with their walking sticks, to make their voices heard.

As I moved through the crowd, I ran into Shujaa Graham who was exonerated from death row. He is a veteran of the prison movement of the 60's-70's, and one of my teachers, who had traveled from Baltimore to show his support for the "Free Mumia" campaign. Former Black Panther Nana Conway, the wife of political prisoner Eddie Conway, had also came from the same city. A number of other East Coast former Panthers were there to show support for their comrade; Panthers like Reggie Schell, Paulette Peebles, Ashanti Alston, and S.E. Anderson. Naji, a broadcaster on D.C. radio station WPFW was seizing the time like myself, and getting interviews with supporters for future reports; much like what Mumia would've been doing at a rally, had the government not set him up on this bogus trumped up case. Dara, an organizer from D.C. with the Hands Off Assata campaign, was out there helping people to see that the same enemy, the U.S. government, is at work in both of these freedom fighters' cases.

When we reached city hall, the post-rally featured Julia Wright, the daughter of legendary Black writer Richard Wright, who has been involved in the international campaign to "Free Mumia!" for many years, and who spoke eloquently for Mumia's release. Legendary movement attorney Roger Wareham, of the December 12th Movement, was also one of the fiery speakers who stuck in my head throughout the day. Powerhouse Ramona Africa, the sole adult survior of the 1985 MOVE bombing, explained very simply and plainly what's at stake in the cases of political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal and her family members the Move 9. On April 22nd the women from that case were unjustifiably denied parole after 30 years of being locked up; in a case where evidence points at the pig being killed by friendly fire. This incident, which led to this bogus case is on video for you to judge for yourself. And to add insult to injury, I don't know how in the hell 9 people can be charged with killing one police officer with one bullet. That absurd charge is similar to the murder charges currently being imposed on the SF 8, a case where 8 men were charged in the murder of one pig, with one shot, but that's another story that I will soon write.

Back to the April 19th demo. The biggest highlight of the day for me was seeing a number of individuals from Mumia's family, including two of his daughters and some of his grandchildren, who were out there representing. Goldii, his youngest daughter on the scene, made the hair on my neck stand up with her passionate and emotional message about her Pops, Mumia, and our need to intensify our efforts to free him now.

The next day, an entourage of Cuban rappers including DJ Leydis, Miki Flowz, Las Krudas, Junior Clan, and DJ Compadre hooked up with the Prisoners of Conscience Committee (POCC) to throw an event in the hood, at a Puerto Rican community center, for Mumia. The POCC's Keita hosted along with myself. The event started with a showing of the POCC: Block Report Radio documentary "Audio Rebellion", and was followed up by some words from Mumia's daughter Goldii, who ended her speech with a rap about her father's case entitled "Trap Door." The Cuban rappers did their thing, and all of them voiced support for Mumia, and some also talked about the cases of political exiles Assata Shakur and Nehanda Abiodun, who are in exile in Cuba currently, and about ending the U.S. blockade against Cuba. Elena, a comrade from the Native Youth Movement in British Columbia, Klanada, voiced solidarity and also talked about the cases of Native political prisoners like Leonard Peltier and others.

After the event was over, the POCC, along with Mumia's family members who were in attendance, and the Cuban rappers had a meeting. The POCC stressed the Code of Culture and the need for artists and cultural workers that support Mumia and political prisoners to concretely get involved in a tangible way, with the work that needs to happen before the people can free them. It was voiced that saying "Free Mumia!" is cool, but we are in dire straits. We need rappers and other cultural workers to stay in contact directly with the campaign, so that they can get up to date information on Mumia and others' plight, as well as to get propaganda out at the concerts and other forums that they are a part of. The Cuban rappers agreed that that is what needs to happen. The night ended when Junior Clan, with tears running down his face, gave all the money made at the event to Mumia's family to help with the expenses that they incur riding around from event to event representing for their Pops.

Both events were historic, and I know that most of the people who attended will remember these days for a long time. Hopefully this report back will inspire you to get involved in Mumia's case, as well as the cases of others like Assata Shakur, Imam Jamil Al-Amin, the Angola 3, the San Francisco 8, the Move 9, the New York 3, Veronza Bowers, Mongo We Langa, Sekou Odinga, Sundiata Acoli, and Aaron Patterson among millions of others. If you haven't already, check out freemumia.org and prisonradio.org to get up to date info on what's going on in Mumia's case. On prisonradio.org check out the Block Report Radio interview where Chairman Fred Hampton Jr. and I interview Mumia as he responds to the 3rd Circuit decision. You could also find Mumia's weekly radio commentaries there. Also you could hear interviews with Goldii, William Singletary, who was there on the night when Mumia was framed, and others on www.blockreportradio.com. Get involved. Free'Em All!

A TALE OF TWO CITIES: DC AND PHILLY CONFRONT NAZIS

Written by One People's Project

On Saturday, 19 April 2008 one Nazi was beat down in Philly, three in DC. This is A19, the day best remembered as the anniversaries of both Waco and Oklahoma City, the day before nazis commemorate Hitler's birthday. The National Socialist Movement announced a few months ago that they were going to march on DC this day, so folks began to prepare for their arrival. Then came the announcement that a rally for Mumia Abu-Jamal was called for April 26, and we knew that was going to bring out our local Nazis who like to use this case to advance themselves. So we knew we were going to have a busy month. The busy month became a busy day when organizers of the Mumia rally moved it up to April 19 to take advantage of the media attention being paid to the presidential primary. That meant antifa had to divide their time between the two rallies. In Washington, the National Socialist Movement held a march and rally, while in Philadelphia, two bonehead crews joined with the local Fraternal Order of Police to stage a counter-protest to a rally held to support political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Those participating in the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal rally in Philadelphia were more than prepared for the presence of Keystone State "Skinheads" (KSS) and Maryland 'Skinheads' (MDS), -- that is, boneheads . Flyers were produced prior to the rally about the nazis planned counter-protest, featuring pictures of individuals expected to show. In the end, there were a paltry thirty participants - not one of them a person of color - in the anti-Mumia counter-protest that took place at the beginning of the march up Market St. The Keystone State "Skinheads" were trying to not let their open racism come out, as they try to appeal to the public as being just a few hard-core, militant conservatives. So the decal they have available saying "Guns don't kill people, dangerous minorities do" had a rather dramatic change when it was time to turn it into a placard that was going to be seen by the general public. They switched "violent criminals" for "dangerous minorities", but with the same pictures of people of color.

According to sources, members of the two bonehead crews left the Vista Ave. home of Keith Carney and Andrew Boyle at approximately 10:30 AM. They were not seen again until they stood with members of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). They were also joined by Erick Weigel of the National Vanguard spinoff group Nationalist Coalition. He is also known as "Erick_K_W" on Stormfront and for getting involved in a physical altercation with counter-protestors of an immigration rally in Morristown, NJ last summer, They brought large signs which they used to hide their faces from time to time whenever they noticed a camera trained on them. Rally participants, whose numbers overwhelmed the racist crowd, called them out as they marched past, matching up the faces on the flyer with those they saw standing on the curb. After the march passed the counter-protest, everyone went their separate ways. Reportedly, KSS and MDS were expected to go to the home of MDS member Clemie Richard Haught at 1604 Iverness Ave. in Baltimore, Maryland to watch the UFC Championship fight between Matt Serra and Georges St-Pierre. They did manage to suffer at least one casualty. One bonehead wearing a T-shirt promoting Death in June, a band fronted by American Front associate Boyd Rice, reportedly walked through the pro-Mumia crowd prior to the march and was promptly beaten up. There were no arrests. Flyers belonging to KSS were found posted along Market St., but were taken down by antifa before the march. Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal thanked Anti-Racist Action and other anti-fascists for alerting them to the threat of the boneheads in alliance with the FOP.

In Washington simultaneously, fireworks began even before the National Socialist Movement (NSM) even arrived, which itself didn't even happen until two and a half hours before their expected time. Reportedly, three supporters of the NSM were seen at the Washington Monument and was set upon by antifa and tourists. While the supporters took some substantial hits, police arrested three antifa. Those who were not arrested continued to follow the supporters as they tried to get away. On Saturday April 19, roughly 28 members of the National Socialist Movement marched in Washington DC. They were countered by many more anti-fascists who forced them to march under heavy police guard while being pelted with water balloons, projectiles, and a chorus of boos.

The day started at 11:30pm, when a group of anti-fascists gathered to await the coming neo-Nazi march. The NSM announced their rally for noon, but were a no show. Scouts for the anti-fascists reported sightings of white supremacists in the area who were also awaiting the NSM. The group decided to march to the Washington Monument, where sightings had been reported. After a

continued on next page...

Sean Bell's Second Slaying

column written 4/25/08 and copyright (c) 2008 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

It was a classic 'Only in America' moment.

The bench trial of three killer cops in New York City, charged with firing some 50 shots into a car, killing one man, Sean Bell, and wounding two others (all unarmed).

The case rushed across America, spreading outrage in each city.

Initially, the cops moved to have the trial transferred to a site upstate, to the rural, northern tiers. This motion denied, they opted for a bench trial (or trial by a single judge), not trusting their fates to a so-called jury of"citizens" they are sworn to serve and protect. Time, it seems, has proven that they made the right decision -- for, predictably, the judge acquitted them of all charges, arguing that the witnesses gave conflicting testimony.

By so doing, the court essentially ruled that Bell's killing was justified; no crime was committed.

The defense utilized the "bad company" argument: that Bell was shot and killed because he was among "the wrong crowd."

That such an argument swayed Supreme Court justice Arthur Cooperman is a measure of how devalued Black life is, and how easy Black men are to demonize and disparage. (In

New York state, unlike most other states, the trial court is termed the Supreme Court, and the state's highest court is their Court of Appeals.)

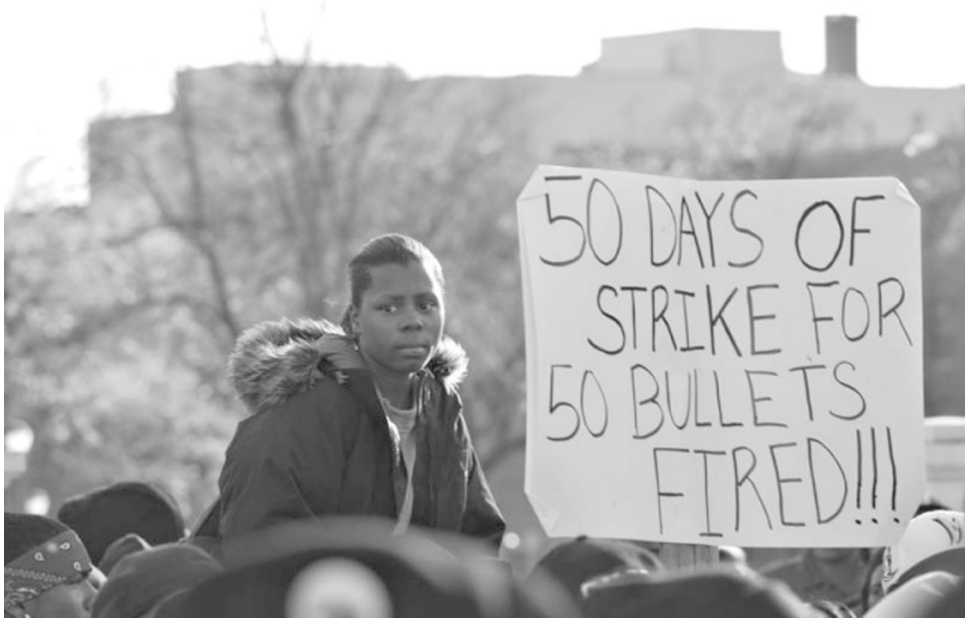
If none of the cops knew the men, what does it matter what their backgrounds were? They could've been lawyers, basketball stars, or -- cops.

That they were Black men -- even unarmed Black men -- was deemed sufficient to unload on them, because in America, their color was crime enough. So, 22 year old Sean Bell joins Amadou Diallo, and others guilty of the capital offense of WWB-Walking While Black. And while millions of Black and white Americans thrill at political illusions of "post-racialism", Sean Bell's case proves how deeply deadly race can still be.

Even rumors of a weapon were enough to unleash 50 shots -- or should we say "alleged rumors", for there were no guns found in Bell's car. In the past, wallets, candy bars, keys, and packs of cigarettes were deemed sufficient to provoke such malicious responses.

Now, nothing is required.

Sean Bell was shot to death, and his friends, Joseph Guzman and Trent Benerfield were seriously wounded. Shot and killed for being 'the wrong crowd.'



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few minutes of marching and milling around the area, 3 neo-Nazis were sighted. The crowd surrounded them and attacked them. After some time of this occurring the police intervened, surrounding the racists to escort them out of the park. Anti-fascists followed, and this is when the DC Park Police claim that a member of the anti-fascist crowd pepper sprayed an officer and the racists.

According to an account by a member of ARA, "The police started shoving and clubbing people, arresting anyone in sight that they could get their hands on. They eventually arrested 6 people on charges including Assault on a Police Officer and Possession of a Prohibited Weapon. …In the end 6 antifascists spent 3 days in jail, 36 hours of which were in 24-hour lockdown in 5 x 8 cells approaching 90 degrees. Five of them are facing multiple counts of assaulting police officers and possession of weapons. The sixth was released with no charges."

At approximately 2:30 PM, the NSM and their supporters, which included Hal Turner who was scheduled to speak and his friend Moreland Huber, who writes under the pen name "Tripp Hendersen", arrived in a blue prison bus at 15th and Consititution Ave. According to WSQT Guerrilla Radio, they marched to the Capitol under heavy police protection by almost 1000 cops, but closely followed by the significantly larger group of antifa and others who joined in from the street. "At the Capitol, protesters got close enough to distract many of them from the speakers but not into decent projectile range," the WSQT report published on DC Indymedia read. "The march was under a barrage of insults against racist scumbags, but the only thrown projectile I can verify is one well-earned water balloon." Photographer David Holloway, an associate of white supremacist Billy Roper that was a part of a group of photographers for the White House, was seen at the rally, but disappeared soon after.

Antifa in both cities came from as far out as the Midwest to participate in the rallies. Numerous Anti-Racist Action chapters represented as well as the chapters of Food Not Bombs and Northeastern Federation of Anarchist-Communists from Syracuse, NY. Supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal were on hand to augment the antifa presence there while tourists visiting Washington joined antifa in haranguing the NSM. Plans are being made for some activists to attend the April 25 court appearance of KSS members who are on trial on attempted murder and weapons charges stemming from the Memorial Day attack on one of their own, as well as the May 24 anti-immigration rally in Lakewood, NJ, which is expected to attract neo-Nazis, particularly those who are members of the Nationalist Coalition.

Books to Prisoners Correction

Dear Editor, I just got the March-April 2008 edition of *Turning the Tide*. It's normally above average with lots of prison info and interviews. Unfortunately this edition included a horribly inaccurate listing of prison book programs. The list is just a collection of addresses and doesn't include a program's coverage area or details. The real kicker is it directs prisoners to write several of the listed program's specific program members by name. So you may have generated a ton of requests from states that programs don't even cover, directed at a specific volunteer who doesn't even work with the project anymore.
Steve, Books 4 Prisoners Crew
Editor replies:
Steve is correct that most or all book to prisoner projects pick a specific state or locale to serve, and we didn't include that info. Sorry for the errors and problems we may have caused. We took the list off an on-line prisoner resource listing without checking it. We apologize to the programs, and to any prisoner readers who may have been misled. Here are two specific correction we got:
PRISON BOOK PROJECT c/o Food for Thought Books P.O. Box 396 Amherst, MA 01004 (413) 584-8975 ext. 208 www.prisonbooks.org Serves prisoners in New England states and Texas only. Request books by topics of interest, not title. No mailing list or catalog. **WISCONSIN BOOKS TO PRISONERS**, 1019 Williamson St #B, Madison WI 53703 Free books to WI prisoners only

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) WE GO WHERE THEY GO: Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US: This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS: In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people.

WE INTEND TO WIN!

ARA-LA*PO BOX 1055*CULVER CITY CA 90232*310-495-0299*antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

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We need your support because of the recent increase in postage rates, and the growing number of free prisoner subscriptions we are sending. **Prisoners – please send us your full correct name and ID #, your cell and tier number and correct, complete mailing address, especially if you are moved by authorities.** Returns are costly and wasteful! Please be aware that ARA-LA/PART is a small, grassroots, all volunteer group with no paid staff, and we have no ability to provide legal services or referrals.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Algerian Refugee in Canada Sanctuary Launches Rap Album

by Stefan Christoff

Abdelkader Belaouni, an Algerian refugee living in sanctuary for more than two years at St-Gabriel's Church in Pointe St-Charles, is launching a hip-hop album. After a winter-long collaboration with the Muslim-American rapper 23 (Tu-Three) - who recently transplanted to Montreal - the duo has produced a unique rap album, born within the walls of sanctuary and from a desire to fight for a more just refugee determination process in Canada.

Over two years ago, in defiance of a deportation order from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Belaouni took sanctuary. Since, he has played an active role in the campaign for the government to act on his case while developing musical skills on the side. In the two years he's been living within the walls at St-Gabriel's Church, Belaouni has learned to play flute and piano and is now conveying his struggle through hip-hop. "This is the first time I have made music in my life, let's be honest," explains Belaouni. "Many people would think that while in sanctuary I am simply hiding. However, throughout this time I have been working hard on my music, singing in sanctuary beside my bed."

Belaouni, backed by many community organizations and social justice groups, has been fighting a very public battle with Immigration Canada. It's not the only battle he's faced in this lifetime. In 1996, Belaouni escaped a violent civil conflict in Algeria, which took an estimated 100,000 civilian lives, an escape that began his journey and struggles as a refugee. He's also blind. Despite his claims, Citizenship and Immigration Canada rejected Belaouni's refugee application, issuing a deportation order that has led to the longest standing sanctuary case in Canada, stretching out now for over 850 days.

"In creating the album, Abdelkader's personality and struggle is expressed through the music, a cultural expression surrounding the themes of personal freedom and destiny and their relation to borders and global migration," explains hip-hop artist 23, Belaouni's collaborator. "After our first session it was clear that we were really starting to build on something, that there was a blessing for this project to work."

Themes on the album range from local issues relating to antipoverty and housing struggles in Pointe St-Charles in Montreal's southwest, where St-Gabriel's Church is located, to issues of an international scope such as the realities faced by refugees in a time of war. "One track is called Borders, a piece that highlights the privilege that a limited number of people and multinational corporations have to cross international borders freely," says 23. "In today's age of security and surveillance we are faced with increasing oppression. Twenty years ago many people celebrated the fall of the Berlin Wall; however, today we are seeing more and more walls going up throughout the world, from the U.S.-Mexico border to Israel's apartheid wall in Palestine."

Today, the official position of the Canadian government is that Belaouni is not allowed to remain within Canada's borders, and a deportation order still stands.

http://hour.ca/news/news.aspx?iIDArticle=14551
http://www.soutienpourkader.net

View a performance from 23 featuring Abdelkader Belaouni:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGtC36LfLSk.

Direct Action Against the War, May 4th, Kent, Ohio

by N. Robinson, Kent ARA

On Sunday May 4 in Kent OH a group of over 200 students marched to the West Main St. Bridge. They refused to disperse on police orders and held the location for nearly two hours. The demonstrators rallied, addressing each other on the war and the struggle for justice and equality at home and abroad. They played drums, danced and conversed. The Internationale was sung in the style of Tom Waits. Banners were hung on the bridge, including an upside down American flag that read "There is no flag large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people." Other banners read "U.S. Out of Ohio" with a pink and black star , "Don't make us start another war to end this one" with a red circle "A", "Peace", "Imagine", and similar slogans were also presented. This action was the culmination of a weekend of anti-war events organized by local groups to run parallel to the "official" May 4th commemorations and liberal oriented anti-war activities (marking the anniversary of the massacre of anti-war protestors by the National Guard during the Vietnam era).

On Saturday, May 3rd, Kent Anti-Racist Action held a symposium against sexism and war. The symposium was well attended. There were workshops on supporting survivors of sexual assault and sexual assault prevention. The 2008 documentary "Guerilla Girls of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) was also shown to address the fact that despite the U.S. myth of liberating women in the Middle East, there is already entrenched feminist tradition and practice. The Women's Liberation Collective presented a history of U.S. feminism. The discussions of this history addressed its failures and successes around issues of skin color and class, as well as supporting the rights of LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer) people.

Yvette Coil of KSAWC, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and Military Families Speak out, and her friend Wendy Lee, spoke about the strains war has placed on returning soldiers and their families. They are both wives of soldiers who have served in Iraq and suffer from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). Coil's husband, who served in the "first" Gulf War, returned in many ways a changed man. His PTSD made family life very hard. Coil spoke about the difficulties he has encountered as a husband and father and how that also affected her ability to function as a wife and mother. She said that the partner of someone with PTSD can end up suffering with the disorder as well. Lee, whose husband is a state trooper, served in the current campaign in Iraq. He volunteered for deployment after the September 11th attacks. She described him as a straight arrow who believed the occupation forces ought to bring stability, and in a very by the book way, act in the interest of the Iraqi people and the American Government. What he found was a self interested and opportunistic pecking order in the ranks. He acted as a "whistle blower" several times writing up other officers for improprieties of command. His complaints were ignored. His "comrades" would soon conspire against him. Several times he was intentionally abandoned in hostile territory with only his Iraqi interpreter, who became one of the few people he could trust. Lee began to receive letters from her husband in which he feared for his life, believing his antagonists were conspiring to have him killed. Originally a pro-war wife, she began demonstrating on her own for her husband's safe return. As a result, she was met with threats and harassment. Their presentation was heartfelt and emotional, both women occasionally coming near tears as they described their situation and the treatment they've received from the armed services. After their presentation many approached them to give hugs and warm wishes.

That night a *consulta* was held among the various groups who would be involved in the May 4th action. The meeting was followed by an Anti-Racist Action benefit show that featured many popular regional hip-hop and punk groups. Sunday's march left the "official" May 4th commemoration ceremony and went 1st to the parking lot where four Kent State students were massacred by the Ohio National Guard on May 4th 1970. A stop was made at the ROTC building. The outside of the building was covered by demonstrators with hundreds of peace signs. The march proceeded to downtown Kent along the officially sanctioned parade route on the sidewalk. Upon reaching the West Main Street bridge, the protesters poured into the street, stepped around traffic and proceeded onto the bridge, occupying the right hand lane only as there was no traffic. After all traffic was allowed to clear, the protesters filled the center of the bridge. At this point squad cars closed bridge access on both ends. The police, taken completely off guard, attempted to disperse the protesters. Immediately a number of protesters sat down in the middle of the road. No one else budged. Suddenly, as chants of "Whose streets? Our streets!" reached a fever pitch, the police recognized a shift in the attitude of the crowd and left, observing from a distant perimeter. For nearly two hours the bridge was peacefully held.

Yvette Coil, injured by Kent cops. -photo by Greg

Another march, organized by liberal forces and billed as an anti-war themed funerary procession for Bill Schultz, a Kent city councilman who had been a friend of the anti-war movement, approached the bridge. It was supposed to cross the bridge and plant a tree of peace on the other side. Protesters agreed to let the procession pass but without surrendering the position on the bridge. In the procession was a jazz band being pulled on a trailer. When the procession reached the center of the bridge it halted. The two demonstrations merged for about 30 minutes while the jazz band played a quick set. A half-hour after the procession left to plant the tree, the police re-opened the bridge and directed traffic on to it despite our presence. 4 protesters sat down in the middle of the bridge. They were: Yvette Coil, who had spoke at Kent ARA's symposium; Aaron Brooks, another KSAWC member, local musician, and lifelong resident of the Kent area; Bill Arthrelle, a Kent State alumnus who attended at the time of the massacre, and now teaches in history in the Cleveland public schools; and Sable, a Kent State student and member of the Women's Liberation Collective. They were summarily arrested while in the act of non-violent civil disobedience. After the arrests, about 70 people marched to the Kent police station in solidarity. Outside, their names were chanted so they would know their comrades were there supporting them. In under two hours, nearly $2,000 was raised to bail everyone out. The funds came from the pockets of protesters and residents. Local residential areas, bars, and even cars at red lights were solicited for funds, and the community generously expressed its solidarity. Among those who gave was a uniformed Army National Guardsman who donated the only dollar he had on his person to the bail fund. He told the protesters that they were "doing the right thing" and that the "war needed to end." When Yvette Coil was released, her arm was in a sling and she had to be taken to the hospital for treatment.

An unpublished joint statement from KSAWC, Kent ARA, Women's Liberation Collective, and Portage Peace sent to the local paper stated: "May 4th was chosen as the date of this action because, as freedom loving people, we feel that past crimes of government can not be ignored, lest they repeat themselves. We identify a common cause between ourselves and those who stood up to guns with passion and ideas in 1970 at Kent and Jackson State. Every care was taken by the demonstrators to obstruct traffic as little as possible. Alternate routes, of which many of you are familiar, are not difficult to take. We do not pretend that the day was without inconveniences. It is clear, however, that the war makers and war profiteers will not listen to talk alone. They control the largest media outlets, and this circumstance demands drastic action to communicate to the other people. The war machine continues untold slaughter of Americans, Iraqis, and Afghanis, and is bankrupting the economies of all three countries. It depletes the world's resources with its taxing demand for fuel. The war economy, while once an economic stimulant is now the primary source of inflation. These problems are beyond inconvenient."

The 4 arrested activists, now know locally as the "Main St. Bridge 4" are still trying to procure affordable and competent legal representation. X-rays revealed that Yvette Coil's arm has a lacerated nerve. She has still not regained feeling in her forearm nearly 3 weeks later. Kent State Anti-War Committee and Kent ARA are appealing for funds to make sure that they are adequately defended. Checks can be made out and sent to: Kent State Anti-War Committee, CSI box #16, Kent, OH 44242. Credit card donations can be made online at:
Myspace.com/kentstateantiwarcommittee or
Myspace.com/kentara

IneQuality of Life Policing and the Butt End of the City Budget

By Peggy Lee Kennedy

If you follow the news, you know that Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa came out very strong in favor of "Public Safety" in the 2008-2009 budget, which includes increasing the LAPD by 1000 cops and decreasing other needed services. Unfortunately, nested within this Public Safety budget is a police budget of over 1.3 billion dollars (around one third of the City's total budget). This is using our so-called scarce city recourses to criminalize the poor and un-housed people – resources that could be used for real solutions to homelessness or the affordable housing crisis. Villaraigosa's strategy involves something called "Quality of Life Policing," a policy that evolved partially out of a right-wing theory of zero tolerance policing called "Broken Windows" (Atlantic Monthly 1982, by James Q Wilson and George Kelling).

It was made popular in New York in the 1990's by William Bratton, now Chief of the Los Angeles Police Department. The basic theory is that police should address smaller offenses of "disorder," such as panhandling or loitering, and then violent crime will diminish. This Zero Tolerance/Quality of Life policing policy is a form of proactive law enforcement that focuses on a business-like "bottom line" of reducing crime and it is well known for violating civil rights.

In addition, our law-makers are using "Quality of Life," as a catch-all name for a series of city ordinances, including anti-vagrant laws that make it a crime to live in a vehicle or sleep in a park even though these acts may be unavoidable. What is done through necessity due to poverty, lack of social services, an extreme shortage of affordable housing, or other social-economic reasons is now a crime. These Quality of Life laws are specifically used to remove poor people, youth of color, people viewed as inferior, vehicular-housed people, or street people from a neighborhood, and ultimately LA as a whole. New anti-vagrant Quality of Life laws in Los Angles make oversized camper vehicles illegal to park on city streets between 2 and 6AM and create Overnight [Permit] Parking Districts for certain housed people in these districts. Older laws used as anti-vagrant Quality of Life laws say that no vehicle should be parked on a city street for more than 72-hours, but is used to target only certain vehicles or certain people. One anti-poor Quality of Life law is the law that makes it a crime to live in a converted garage or "granny shack." Examples of anti-youth Quality of Life law are curfew and truancy laws used to target youth of color or youth viewed as a "nuisance."

Quality of Life Policing and Quality of Life Laws are especially popular in neighborhoods experiencing gentrification - like Venice, downtown Los Angeles, Echo Park or Boyle Heights. This form of policing, law making, and law application distinctively does not protect or serve the people who most need to have a better quality of life. They do exactly the opposite.

This form of policing and these laws should be re-named "IneQuality of Life."

IneQuality of Life Policing uses considerable Police resources dedicated to following, tracking, and observing poor people; giving tickets to people who cannot pay the fines, who cannot easily make it to court, or who have done no other crime except to be poor, brown, or live without traditional housing. For many un-housed street people, tickets turn into warrants and many get arrested – often in sweeps, which is another elaborate use of police resources and horrible for the people being arrested. Arrested street people regularly lose everything when their possessions are thrown away (original birth certificates, family pictures, medication, section 8 vouchers). They plead "no contest" instead of "not guilty" to get off with time served, due to lack of legal representation and a lack of knowledge of their rights (National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH), 2002). They end up with a criminal record, probation, and stay-away orders for areas that have social services – like the Venice Family Clinic and Saint Joseph's Bread and Roses Café on Rose Ave. in Venice or Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles.

It is a fact that this kind of intensive small offense ticketing, arresting, and incarcerating of un-housed street people costs more than housing them. The Safer City Initiative (SCI), which evolved in Los Angeles using the consulting assistance of the above-mentioned George Kelling, added 50 LAPD officers in Skid Row - an area of only .85 square miles. The estimated cost of just the 50-officer SCI Task Force in Skid Row is about $6 million per year. The City budgeted $5.7 million out of the same General Fund for homeless shelter and services for the entire City. (See *Policing Our Way Out of Homelessness?* September 2007, Professor Gary Blasi, UCLA School of Law.)

Our elected officials know this, but do not appear to care. They do nothing to stop the on-going propaganda campaign of fear that helps to justify these laws (sound familiar?). In fact, they even cater to the civilian hate mongers [who call them over and over] by creating more IneQuality of Life laws. Meanwhile we, the tax payers, are all paying for a system that does not work. IneQuality of Life Policing simply does not work to solve homelessness. It violates people's civil rights and can lead to costly litigation. It's helping erode Constitutional and human rights. Bottom line, it's expensive. Also, when an un-housed person has a criminal record, it increases the barriers to finding housing and shelter. Section 8 housing applications, including the section 8 buildings in Venice owned by Coldwater Management, require a credit check and a background check. If a person has a bankruptcy, a prior eviction, or a misdemeanor – they can pretty much forget it.

Now where are people supposed to go when there is no affordable housing or proper shelter system, when these laws are citywide and they have been given a criminal record using IneQuality of Life Policing? Should they live in jail or just die? As a matter of fact, they do. People are dying homeless on our streets more often than we know, because it is not publicized. Increasingly poor people are being housed in jails and prisons while we are paying to build more. It is a vicious cycle of a growing fascist police state that the workers are funding - and the only true beneficiaries of this system are the big corporations and greedy land developers. Many believe that "relocation camps" for the homeless on the model of the Ontario encampment are in the offing for L.A.

Except some of us do not want to live in a corporate fascist police state.

Still, so many people do not recognize all the signs that say "No Poor People Allowed" as being part of a fascist state. Maybe the chem. trails really are turning us all into mindless robots controlled by the state. Or maybe we all just need to turn off the TV more, care for each other more, chant more, and find peace within. And there is value in holding hands and singing "We Shall Overcome," but I do believe people have to struggle to be aware of and resist the petty fear and intolerance we are being conditioned with. Lets help each other to remember that all human beings deserve the basic rights of healthy food, decent shelter, and freedom of movement. Write, call, tell the City Council, the Mayor, and everyone else to oppose IneQuality of Life laws and policing. Basic rights should not just belong to the chosen few or the high-class criminals who can afford a good legal defense. That is why we call it Human Rights - not Rights for the Few who have property, power, and privilege.

American History, Black History and the "Right to Bear Arms"

A Black Agenda Radio commentary by Bruce Dixon www.blackagendareport.com

"America's built, we understand, by stolen labor on stolen land" -- Brother D and Collective Effort, 1980

The dominant trend among legal scholars, and on the current Supreme Court is that we are bound by the original intent of the Constitution's authors. Here's what the second amendment to the Constitution says:

"A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the People to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

Clearly its authors aimed to guarantee the right to a gun for every free white man in their new country. What's no longer evident 230 years later, is why. The answer sheds useful light on the historical and current politics and self-image of our nation.

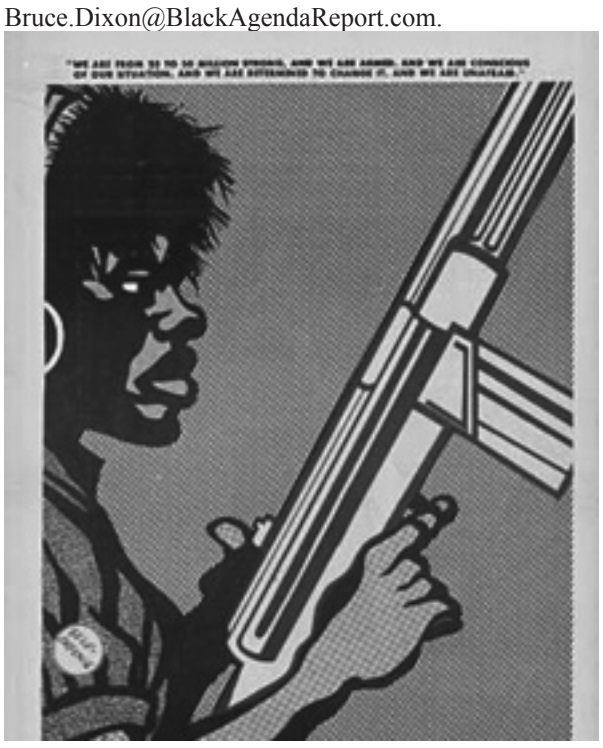
Colonial America and the early US was a very unequal place. All the good, cleared, level agricultural land with easy access to transport was owned by a very few, very wealthy white men. Many poor whites were brought over as indentured servants, but having completed their periods of forced labor, allowing them to hang around the towns and cities, landless and unemployed, was dangerous to the social order. So they were given guns and credit, and sent inland to make their own fortunes, encroaching upon the orchards, farms and hunting grounds of Native Americans, who had little or no access to firearms. The law, of course, did not penalize white men who robbed, raped or killed Indians. At regular intervals, colonial governors and local US officials would muster the free armed white men as militia, and dispatch them in murderous punitive raids to make the frontier safer for settlers and land speculators. "The principal activities of the Founding Fathers' 'well regulated militia' were Indian killing, land stealing, slave patrolling and the enforcement of domestic apartheid."

Slavery remained legal in New England, New York and the mid-Atlantic region till well into the 1800s, and the movements of free blacks and Indians were severely restricted for decades afterward. So colonial and early American militia also prowled the roads and highways demanding the passes of all non-whites, to ensure the enslaved were not escaping or aiding those who were, and that free blacks were not plotting rebellion or traveling for unapproved reasons.

Historically then, the principal activities of the Founding Fathers' "well regulated militia" were Indian killing, land stealing, slave patrolling and the enforcement of domestic apartheid, all of these, as the Constitutional language declares "being necessary to the security of a free state." A 'free' state whose fundamental building blocks were the genocide of Native Americans, and the enslavement of Africans.

The Constitutional sanction of universally armed white men against blacks and Indians is at the origin of what has come to be known as America's "gun culture." This neatly explains why that culture remains most deeply rooted in white, rural and small-town America long after the end of slavery and the close of the frontier. With the genocide of Native Americans accomplished and slavery gone, America's gun culture wrapped itself in new clothing, in self-justifying mythology that construes the Second Amendment as arming the citizenry as final bulwark of freedom against tyranny, invasion or crime. Embracing this fake history of the Second Amendments warps legal scholarship and public debate in clouds of willful ignorance, encouraging us to believe this is a nation founded on just and egalitarian principles rather than one built with stolen labor on stolen land.

Maybe this is how we can tell that we are finally so over all that nasty genocide and racism stuff. We've chosen to simply write it out of our history. For *Black Agenda Radio*, I'm Bruce Dixon.
Bruce.Dixon@BlackAgendaReport.com.



n image from "The Black Panther" newspaper by Minister of Culture Emory Douglas

Defend the Black Rider Three

By Black Riders Three Defense Committee

Are you aware that the LAPD and DA's office are currently prosecuting a major political conspiracy case in the Los Angeles Criminal Courts building? Did you know that three young Black revolutionary activists, proponents of gang truces and opponents of police abuse, are being held in L.A. on over a million dollars bond right now? Have you seen any reports about the leader of the Black Riders Liberation Party, Wolverine Shakur, also known as General T.A.C.O., (Taking All Capitalists Out), who is being held on a "keep away" order in the "high power" solitary confinement area of the Twin Towers jail, shackled and manacled with his hands behind his back and unable to stand up straight when being taken to see visitors?

Despite the oppressively high security, disproportionate bails, and the wild, unsubstantiated allegations -- without filing any such criminal charges, the D.A. and LAPD claim to have 'information' that the Black Riders were planning to shoot up L.A. police divisions -- neither D.A. Cooley nor Police Chief Bratton has said a word to the press about the proceedings or about the coordinated raids in northern and southern California by which the defendants were arrested.

On Friday, April 25, the Black Rider Three -- General T.A.C.O., BRLP second in command Aryana Shakur, who has been separated from her son since a massive raid by the LAPD, FBI, and San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies last summer, and Comrade Stress -- were in court for a hearing on discovery motions to uncover the role of the federal government in these indictments. Federal agents were apparently involved in the August raid in San Bernardino, which included armored personnel carriers, a battering ram, and the sealing off of four square blocks around a home housing a number of the Riders. Their next court appearance is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28 at 9:00 AM in Division 131 on the 15th floor of the downtown Criminal Courts building.

Supporters will be holding a press conference and rally at 12:00 noon that day outside the Criminal Courts building, 210 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 to denounce the illegitimate set-up charges and repression against the Black Rider 3 and the BRLP. They are challenging the media to cover this case and investigate the role of LAPD and federal agents in a politically-motivated counter-insurgency prosecution. Party supporters believe that the prosecutorial attack on their leaders was carried out after the raids last summer failed to produce the armed confrontation authorities were trying to provoke in attempt to assassinate Party members, similar to the COINTELPRO attacks on the Black Panther Party a generation ago. The demands being raised are to free the Black Rider Three and all political prisoners. The courthouse rally will be followed on Saturday, June 14 by a noon community rally in Leimert Park. Later in June and July, events are planned with Fred Hampton Jr. of the POCC, a concert with Immortal Technique, and a program with MalikShabazz of the New Black Panther Party.

In hearings last month, the judge threw out the police and prosecution effort to get a gang enhancement added to the charges against the Three. In earlier testimony in support of the gang enhancement, a police witness testified that the Black Riders has no gang insignia or signs, claimed no gang territory and identified themselves as proud Africans. He admitted that the Black Riders resembled the Black Panther Party. This exposes the political nature of this prosecution, according to the Party. The BRLP has been involved in several major campaigns, building street truces between and among sets of the Crips and Bloods (from whose ranks many of the Party's members have come), opposing police abuse of power, and struggling for Black-Brown unity. Since the recent series of raids and arrests, noted Nadia Shakur, Chief of Staff of the BRLP, the LAPD killed a dozen people in as many weeks, internecine violence among sets has increased on the streets, and new tensions have been fomented between Black and Brown communities. After losing the gang enhancement, the DA piled on additional charges against T.A.C.O.'s co-defendants of "aiding and abetting" him.

A short quote from his Black Manifesto 2000, summing up lessons of the 1992 LA rebellion, makes clear why the leader of the BRLP is in the state's crosshairs: "This peace treaty was agreed upon only two days before the L.A. uprising and eventually ushered in a temporary truce between all tribes in southern California. But it only lasted a few weeks because the f*cking pigs sabotaged it by sending government spies in the Black community to cause tension and tribal warfare after the rebellion ... this small sign of unity has been put under siege because the fascist rulers understand that the Watts truce will eventually spark something a thousand times more productive - armed revolution!

"For three whole days the people took over one of the biggest cities in Amerika and the action was completely unorganized. Imagine what would happen if we were fully organized. President Bush had just defeated Iraq in another imperialistic war and he had to make a mad dash and call home the troops to help reestablish national security during the biggest uprising in U.S. history. It was started and carried by the notorious Bloods and Crips-the urban Black lumpenproletariat.

"All of white Amerika stood up and took notice when we united and rebelled against the fascist state….The fear of both Blacks and revolution is imbedded at the core of white racist psychology. In the early 1970's the oppressor actively encourage the growth of Bloods and Crips by smuggling crack cocaine and military weapons to the tribes in the Black neocolony. A few of the main reasons why the ruling elite and their hired gun-Slingers manipulated us into intensifying our own genocide was to create the prison-industrial-complex to control the most rebellious people simultaneously raking in profits for a rapidly expanding capitalist global economy. … The neocolonial repressive measures launched against the Black community in the last thirty years is not a sign of the white power structure security but a glaring manifestation of its insecurity. Total repression and genocide are not possible if we organize ourselves for survival first-if we first construct the commune, a sense of community, a common interest of class. The Black commune is the vehicle for the ultimate drive by against the fascist state!"

For more information, contact Nadia Shakur, 323-872-2864, blackriderslp@yahoo.com

BRLP, PO Box 8297, L.A. CA 90008

Another Puerto Rican Independentista Subpoenaed to Grand Jury

by Panama Alba

We received information from Dr. Michael Gonzalez Cruz of the Mesa de Solidaridad de Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, via National Hero Rafael Cancel Miranda, that Eliot Monteverde Torres was subpoenaed on May 13 to a US federal grand jury in Brooklyn, NY for May 23, 2008. Historically, these grand jury witch-hunts have been used to try to intimidate, criminalize or incarcerate independentistas.

The FBI seached and served a Grand Jury subpoena on the compañero attorney and educator Elliot Monteverde Torres. The subpoena orders the activist to appear in the federal court of New York on May 23, 2008. Elliot lives with his wife and daughter in Texas. He was a student leader in the U.S. and a distinguished leader of the movement in solidarity with Vieques in New York.

It's important to support all the compañeros harassed by the FBI in Puerto Rico and the U.S. We hope to coordinate our support for the compañeros. In the face of repression, Unity and Struggle!

For more information, contact panamaalba2@yahoo.com, [or in Los Angeles, Lawrence Reyes of the Puerto Rican Alliance, alianzapr@hotmail.com—*Editor.*]

Hawaii Needs You

An open letter to the US left from the Hawaiian sovereignty movement

by Ikaika Hussey, convenor, *Movement for Aloha No ka Aina (MANA)*, Terrilee Keko'olani, *Ohana Koa/Nuclear-Free and Independent Pacific*; Noelani Goodyear-Kaopua, assistant professor of political science, *University of Hawaii, Manoa*, Jon Osorio, director, *Center for Hawaiian Studies, University of Hawaii, Manoa*; Kekuni Blaisdell, convenor, *Ka Pakaukau*, Andre Perez and Kelii "Skippy" Ioane, *Hui Pu*, Kai'opua Fyfe, *Koani Foundation*

The confluence of two forces- military expansion in Hawai'i and Congressional legislation that will stymie the Kanaka Maoli [Native Hawaiian] sovereignty movement--will expand and consolidate the use of HI for US empire. We call on the US left to join our movement opposing these threats and add our quest for independence as a plank of the strategy for a nonimperialist America. If you support peace and justice for the US and the world, support demilitarization and independence for Hawai'i.

Since 1893, the United States has malformed Hawai'i into the command and control center for US imperialism in Oceania and Asia. From the hills of the Ewa district of O'ahu, the US Pacific Command--the largest of the unified military commands--directs troops and hardware throughout literally half the planet. Since the late nineteenth century, the US military has multiplied in our islands, taking 150,000 acres for its use, including one-quarter of the metropolitan island of O'ahu. Moreover, the National Security Administration is building a new surveillance facility nearby, not far from where urban assault brigades, called Strykers, will train for deployment throughout the world. The US Navy is also increasing training over the entire archipelago, including populated areas and the fragile northwestern whale sanctuary. This militarized occupation has a long history. Ke Awalau o Pu'uloa--known now as Pearl Harbor--became one of the very first overseas bases, along with Guantánamo, around the time of the Spanish-American War. We still hold much in common with prerevolution Cuba--a sugar plantation economy and status as the playground for the rich of North America.

We've suffered the effects of being the pawn for US wars on the world. Our family members languish from strange diseases brought by military toxins in our water and soil. Our economy is a foreign-run modern plantation serving multinational shareholders and decorated generals. We salute a foreign flag, and the education system instructs us to yearn for a distant continent called the Mainland. Tourists imbibe sunny Waikiki, while beaches in native-inhabited regions are littered with chemical munitions.

But amid our suffering, we have survived. Our tenacity and resilience have historical roots: in 1897, 95 percent of the Kanaka Maoli population signed petitions that helped to defeat a treaty to forcibly annex Hawai'i to the US.

The last 40 years have seen remarkable change for our people, through the advancement of a grassroots struggle against the political occupation and mental colonization of our homeland. We have been successful in several campaigns: in stopping the bombing of Kaho'olawe Island and Makua Valley, in revitalizing the Hawaiian language and culture in our schools and families, in returning to our indigenous spiritual practices and in making Hawaiian sovereignty a dinner-table topic and a possibility. These hard-fought wins are successes in the movement for self-determination and also a threat to America's use of Hawai'i as the purveyor of its empire.

It is against this backdrop that the Akaka bill (the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act) is being discussed in the halls of Congress, promoted by Hawai'i's corporate and political elite as a vehicle for racial justice. Yet the bill would turn back one of the most important victories of the last four decades--the rise of Hawaiian self-determination, including independence, as a political possibility--replacing it with the extinguishment of our historic claims to land and sovereignty.

Our conundrum puts us squarely in opposition to the middle ground of American politics, which has arrived at a consensus that Hawai'i will remain a military colony of the United States. Democratic Senator Inouye is a major purveyor of pork barrel spending for military appropriations and defense contractors. All three presidential contenders have signaled their support for the Akaka bill. And while the far right of the Republican Party opposes the Akaka bill, both major parties have no quarrel over the continuance of the empire's use of our homeland.

In light of this American consensus on Hawai'i, we turn to our nearest political allies, US progressive movements, and seek your solidarity for our independence because it is congruent and essential to your hope for a better world. Please join us in opposing the Akaka bill and the militarization of Hawai'i, and please support Hawai'i's independence as part of your vision for a more humane United States and a more just world.

For more information on Hawai'ian sovereignty, check:

Hawaii Nation Info <info@hawaii-nation.org>

The possibility in his son's blue eyes

by Elizabeth K. Gordon

I was tethered to the WACAN table at the 9th Annual White Privilege Conference when a gust of a rap-poem blew through the open doors of the Sheraton Hotel's auditorium and tore me lose. It was Oakland Hip Hop Artist Ariel Luckey doing his first ever performance of "ID Check." Standing in the back of a packed chandelier-lit hall, I watched a slim twenty-something white man pace the stage, flinging a list, a litany of "I am's"

I am a blue-eyed devil, peckawood and country cracker
Red neck, white trash and urban wannabe rapper
I am the man who's got the God complex
Pimping privilege from class, skin color and sex
I am the president, the pope and the cop on your block
I'm the banker buying stock in selling bullets and glocks

It was white male privilege disrobing and putting on a newer, simpler outfit: honesty, responsibility, and an eyes-open-to-history pride.

I am also Myles Horton, Anne Braden and John Brown
I'm a Quaker Abolitionist and the Weather Underground
I am Paul Kivel, I am Tim Wise
I am the possibility in my son's blue eyes

It was a gust and a breath of fresh air. It made me want to hug him (which I did). And interview him, which I did too, after enjoying more of his work on U-Tube and My Space.

As an outsider in a black-dominated field, Ariel Luckey's whiteness is in his face in a way most white folks never experience. Some white rappers deal with that predictably, as in these lines from underground rapper Brother Ali,

"They ask me if I'm black or white, I'm neither -- Race is a made up thing, I don't believe in it."

Neither? In our dreams, maybe. Either is the path Ariel Luckey has chosen, back to the immigrant roots, as his in-progress solo theatre piece 'Free Land' puts it, "deep within the blood-stained soil of American history." Speaking to me from his California home, Luckey said, "I'm using Hip Hop to articulate a perspective or experience of privilege… I'm an anomaly, because I go where most whites don't go." There is, Luckey explained, a void. And he feels a responsibility to fill it. To quote again from 'Free Land,' which explores the legacy of white privilege and Native American genocide in the West:

I need to color in the blank white faces
Fill the void in with memories, dates and places
I'm lost without this knowledge of self
I'm sick and tired of trying to be like everybody else
If I don't have roots then how can I grow?
I'm gonna dig for the truth—fuck it, I need to know.

He has made art of this digging, and a career. The first attracts audiences, as it did me that day; the second can attract critical questions. Is this same-old same-old: appropriation and exploitation of black and native cultures? Leaning out of my stone house to lob this question, I sense it's one Luckey has had to dodge more than a few times before. Only he doesn't dodge it. "A big piece," he says, "is accountability. Am I giving back? Am I in relationship?" To keep this relationship vital, Luckey uses an open process technique that involves staging an in-progress work before a multicultural group and dialoguing after with the audience. The community then becomes his teacher. (He's also worked formally with teachers such as African drummer Pope Flyne, African dancer Akua Angel, and African American poet June Jordan.)

Luckey points to "Thangs Taken," his annual alternative Thanksgiving celebration/performance, as evidence that's he not about newly renovated expropriation. The piece uncovers the lamentable history WACAN members are well aware of while also spotlighting local Native American artists and events. After his most recent "Thangs Taken Day" performance, a Lakota woman rose to speak, praising his work but expressing sadness that Native people could not themselves fill the room, as Luckey had that day. But it was important, he reported her as saying, that he was doing it. "Yes, I have white privilege," he says, "I can't avoid that, but I can leverage it. I can bring in other voices."

But he sees his art as not only "bringing in other voices." "I feel like my story [in Free Land] is as much about white people as about Native Americans. It's about what white folks have done. . . . As I tap into my family history and ask what does this mean? I'm telling a piece of my own story as well." One in three white Americans, Luckey points out, has at least one ancestor who homesteaded.

As for class identity, Luckey admits that being the underdog is a key element of rap. Eminem may be white but he has a trailer park and a gone dad on his resume. "Identity and being down is highly contested in the Hip Hop community," he says. "In that sense of class trumps race, my work is really flippin' it, trying to do something different." It's a tool, he continues, to explore the oppressor side, the "Pimping privilege from class, skin color and sex," as "ID Check" phrases it. "It's kinda heavy," he says, this burden to fill the void left by silence and denial.

Is it a burden that weighs down his creativity? "I try not to limit my voice," he says, "to only be political. I don't feel like any of my work is separate from politics, but it's not only politics. I mean, part of what I'm working for is a fuller embodiment of all our humanity . . . our awe of life."

So wouldn't he, I ask, sometimes rather be writing about, oh, vegetables coming up in the garden than people who "yelled for lynching then brought [their] children to watch it"? "There have been moments when I felt like I could write about vegetables," he ponders, "but that's very political too – who picks them, you know, how they get to us." A man on message. An art with a mission. If I think it should be otherwise, there's the chorus of "ID Check" to put things in perspective. It's the part that compelled me to abandon the WACAN table once and for all and take one of the few empty seats in that chandelier-lit hall at the Sheraton:

This is an ID check
like the border patrol
but this is not for my country
this is for my soul

If it's for your soul, I guess, you don't have time to be penning pretty poems about the flowerets of a broccoli plant. The soul of white folks.

Free Land will premier in the Bay area this year and then go on the road. Luckey plans to make a DVD as well as a curriculum guide for classes studying The Homestead Act. For more information, email skylight@arielluckey.com.
Luckey's Myspace page is **http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendID=134546493**

Native Nation Protests Hog Farm, Violations of Sovereignty

By Oitancan Zephier

I am looking for all the support and publicity I can get in the native community on this hogfarm protest in Marty, SD on the Yankton Sioux Rez. Two weeks ago the state moved in and started claiming our tribal road. There is a hogfarm being built on state land, surrounded by indian land. It is a tactic to take more land. The YST is in litigation with the State of South Dakota now. They are saying we're a diminishing tribe with diminished lands. Our boundaries are undefined so we're a checkerboard rez. Recently there has been nearly 50 of us thrown in jail for protesting on the Indian land (road) by state officers. They say it's their road, when in reality we have had jurisdiction on it for the past 15 years. However, there is no physical proof that either of us own it. That would mean it goes back to the original owner in court. That makes us the rightful owner from my understanding of the law.

We need support. Tuesday we have court and will be in jail because of the prejudice of the local government. We need help! We need lawyers. Wednesday April 30, we will be rallying at the site near Marty, SD. AIM is planning on coming as well as Dennis Banks. We are awaiting confirmation on his arrival though.

People! We need your help! Come to Marty, SD now! We need the help of every nation that is willing to help us! Don't wait for an invitation. Please! Come help us now! We're too busy with things here to think of everyone that can help us. We have our hands full with what's in front of us. Call us. Make suggestions. Give us advice! Whatever it is, help us! We need bodies. We need people! people! people!

We need people willing to fight! We need people willing to go to jail by a state officer on indian land! Doesn't that seem wrong to you? I went to jail, arrested while standing on a tribal highway by a South Dakota state deputy, while the Bureau of Indian Affairs watches. That's what is happening! It is wrong!

We need money for bail. Many more of us will be going to jail. If we don't fight this indian people will continue to lose land. Next time it will be your people. Remember when a cry for help came out what 'reason' or 'excuse' you gave. You'll get it right back when you need help. The system keeps us locked in place. It keeps us working, paying bills and plugged into society. In that mindset we're all robots programmed to do what the government wants us to do -- pay taxes! Give them money! 'I gotta feed my family,' you're thinking. I know it. I was too but overcame it. Tunkasina (the grandfather) knows that our fight is right and honorable. Better things will follow for us.

This is really not about a hogfarm! This is about the racist state of South Dakota moving in the middle of indian country and saying, 'This is our road!' Tomorrow it will be 'this is our land!' We need to fight! We need your help! View videos on youtube.com. Search for yankton sioux tribe hogfarm and ihanktonwan nation illegal arrests.

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Judge Signs Order to Return SF8 Defendants Herman Bell, Jalil Muntaqim to NY for Parole Hearing

by NYC Jericho

After some last-minute procedural issues were resolved, Judge Philip Moscone signed the order to have Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim return to New York State for their parole hearings. Bell and Muntaqim have been imprisoned as three decades as part of the New york Three, and are currently facing trial in San Francisco in a resurrected COINTELPRO case against former members and associates of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, in the case of the "SF Eight," several of whom were tortured in the 1970s to coerce false confessions to the killing of a cop after the assassination of George Jackson inside San Quentin.

They will be transported by Federal Marshals. All parties agreed that the move would be temporary. Herman and Jalil waved their rights to fight extradition back to California.

They are expected to be back in San Francisco for the beginning of the Preliminary Hearing in the San Francisco 8 case, currently scheduled for September 8.

For more information contact:

www.thejerichomovement.com

Herman Bell of the SF8 and the New York Three

A Hollow Victory

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As millions ready themselves for the general elections in November, it takes some effort to summon up the elections of 2 years ago. In 2006, mid-term elections brought dramatic change to the Congress, and seemed to presage a change in the nation's direction as well. Those mid-terms centered around the public's demand and hunger for an end to the Iraq war and illegal occupation, and was an electoral expression of that deep national discontent.

Well, it's been two years now, and the Congress has just voted another $165 billion (that's right, with a b) to fund the Iraq war. It's been two years - and the Iraq mess is still a scar on the national psyche. It's now become the property of both major political parties -Democrats and Republicans.

It's the very nature of politics that politicians regularly betray the interests of those who have voted for them. They'll take the votes, yes; but they don't answer to the people. As the saying goes, 'They answer to a higher power' - the military industrial complex.

If we think back to the primaries, candidates of both parties who ran on genuine anti-war platforms had to contend with waves of media ridicule. Think about how the corporate media treated either Dennis Kucinich (D. OH), or Ron Paul (R. TX), or former congressman, Mike Gravel. All were depicted as little better than boobs, objects of an occasional sidebar, but never seriously presented as candidates of 'presidential timber.'

And, as Marshall McLuhan (1991-1980) said, 'the medium is the message.' The media, hired guns for their corporate bosses, served their interest by coverage which slanted the perceptions of millions, that only those they thought electable were 'serious' candidates. 'Only so-and-so can raise enough money', most reporters opined, selling candidates as surely as they sold soap.

These processes have produced the very hour we now live in; a time of peril and disaster.

What kind of democracy can such a process engender?

And now, 1/2 year from another election, we will hear a plethora of promises, spun with the best commercials that money can buy. We will march into the booth, our eyes shiny with anticipation. In a matter of months, or years, we will look back at the ashes of promises aborted, and wonder how we keep doing it again, and again, and again.

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Barack Obama and the New Afrikan "National Question:"
Are We Free Yet?

by Kali Akuno

*In Honor of the 83rd Birthday of Malcolm X and the clarity he brought to the New Afrikan[1] revolutionary movement

[1]A New Afrikan is a person of Afrikan descent, particularly those historically enslaved and colonized in the Southeastern portion of the North American continent, that presently live under the colonial subjugation of the United States government. New Afrikan is the connotation of the national identity of this Afrikan people that recognizes their political aspirations for self-determination and independence.

Since the stunning Iowa victory of Senator Barack Obama in January, a great deal has been said and written about the declining or ongoing significance of "race" and "racial prejudice" in US society, and about the prospect of a person of Afrikan descent being its President as proof of its substantive social transformation. While this discussion must be regarded as an advance over the conservative moralistic and race-coded discussions that have dominated political debate in the US since the 1980's, we must acknowledge its critical limitations.

In the main, these discussions individualize the issues and only engage the behavioral and subjective aspects of inequality and oppression. What is fundamentally missing is a critical discussion of the structural and systemic nature of oppression and exploitation within the US and how the Obama campaign "phenomenon" relates to these structures and dynamics.

This paper seeks to investigate the strategic relationship of the Obama campaign to the structural dynamics of oppression and exploitation within the US. In particular, it will focus on the question of New Afrikan or Black national oppression within the US and how the Obama campaign addresses this oppression. It also seeks to address certain strategic questions that progressive forces within the national liberation and multi-national working class movements must struggle with over the course of the next six months in order to ensure that our demands and interests are advanced – regardless of whether Obama wins in November.

Some of the strategic questions this paper seeks to address are:

1. What is Obama's organic relationship to the New Afrikan or Black nation?
2. What class position, alignment and program does Obama represent?
3. How do Obama's campaign strategy and program relate to the historic interests and demands of the Black nation?

What is the "National Question"?

In summary, from a dialectical materialist framework, the "national question" refers to a) the unequal structural relationship of colonized and oppressed peoples to international capital, oppressor nations, imperialism, and white supremacy and b) to the historic struggles of colonized and oppressed peoples to liberate themselves from these oppressive systems and forces, either in whole or in part (as not all of these "people's" or "national liberation" struggles have sought to remove themselves from capitalist relations of production).

The inequalities between peoples produced by capitalism are historic. They are rooted in the development of the capitalist world system through the colonization and/or subjugation of the globe and its non-European peoples by the ruling classes of the western European states (i.e. Portugal, Spain, France, England, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, and Italy) beginning in the 15th century.

In order to facilitate the process of capital accumulation they initiated on a world scale, the ruling classes of Europe developed a social system and ideology that divided world production along several lines, some of which predated capitalism, some of which developed specifically to suite capitals historic needs. The pre-capitalist social divisions that were exploited were religion, ethnicity, nationality and patriarchy. The new and fundamentally principal divisions developed by and with capitalism are race and state-bound nationality.

The purpose of exploiting and/or developing these inequalities is a) to facilitate the control of the land, labor, and (material and non-material) resources of the subject and oppressed peoples and b) to foster competition between and among these peoples for the material and social rewards conferred by this exploitative and alienating system.

In the United States the "national question" specifically addresses the structural relationship of colonized, oppressed, and subject peoples to the European settler-colonial project and the imperial national-state apparatus that reinforces it. This project is premised on the genocide and dispossession of indigenous peoples (the First Nations); the enslavement and colonial subjugation of Afrikan peoples and their descendents; and the dispossession and colonial subjugation of Xicanas/os.

The New Afrikan National Question

Throughout the history of the US settler-colonial project New Afrikans have fundamentally been concentrated in the southeastern portion of the project's possessions. The foundation of this concentration was historically premised on the utilization of enslaved Afrikan labor to produce cash crops like tobacco, cotton, rice, dyes, and sugar, for international consumption. During the early mercantile stages of capitalist development the climatic conditions, soil quality, and strategic location of these possessions facilitated them being incorporated into the world-capitalist system as a zone of mono-crop commodity production. This population concentration and the relations of production exercised in this zone facilitated the formation of the New Afrikan people as a colonized diasporic Afrikan nation subject to will of the European settler-colonial project and its capitalist-imperialist regime between 1619 and 1865.

The mechanization of agriculture in the southeastern portion of the settler-colonial state in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, combined with an intense program of labor control and repression during this period, displaced millions of New Afrikans. In the search for refuge and jobs, displaced New Afrikans reconcentrated in the urban industrial centers of the East Coast, Mid-West, and West Coast between the 1910s – 1960s. In the process of this resettlement, millions of New Afrikans joined the ranks of the industrial working class. However, they did so fundamentally on an unequal structural basis. Exploiting the subject status of New Afrikan people, capital, the labor bureaucracy, and the various European settler communities relegated New Afrikans to the lowest strata's of the working class, where they were concentrated in the lowest paid and most hazardous occupations that restricted their ability to earn and accumulate. This process of development established the social and economic terms of New Afrikan national oppression throughout the entire expanse of the US settler-colonial project.

Simultaneously, the vast majority of New Afrikans who remained in the New Afrikan national territory (i.e. the southeastern portion of the settler-colonial project) became subject to a new regime of accumulation and distorted national development. Reacting to the gains made in the industrial "north" by the multinational working class movement between the 1930's – 50's, industrial capital "outsourced" production to New Afrika to exploit the subjugated status of the New Afrikan working class. Although the New Afrikan working class was kept from effectively organizing itself into labor unions, this development did expand the overall circuit of capital within the New Afrikan nation, which helped stimulate the rise of the civil rights movement and its petit bourgeois program of civil inclusion within the legalistic confines of the settler-colonial project.

The limited social and economic gains of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements set the present terms of national development for the New Afrikan nation. New Afrika, like all nations and nationalities, is a class stratified social formation. Like all the peoples and nations subjugated and colonized by the European colonial powers, capital and capitalist social relations have articulated New Afrika's social development. Throughout its nearly 400 years of development, the overwhelming majority of New Afrikans have been and are members of the working classes (either as chattel slaves, peasants, or proletarians). However, a very limited New Afrikan bourgeoisie has existed since at least the mid-19th century. Throughout much of New Afrikan history, this extremely small, typically service based petit-bourgeoisie has tended politically to be more progressive than reactionary in its political outlook and program. In the main this bourgeois class has provided leadership to and support for theprimary historical demands of the New Afrikan national liberation movement.

In summary these demands have been and are:

1. Land for self-determining or autonomous development and accumulation.

2. Equal treatment before the law of the settler-colonial state.

3. Equitable distribution of the social surplus distributed throughout the settler-colonial state.

4. Self-determining political power.

5. Self-reliant and self-sustaining economic development.

6. Reparations.

However, the accumulation gains (meager as they were) of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements combined with major shifts in the relations of production on a worldwide scale, transformed the relationship of the NewAfrikan bourgeoisie to the whole of the New Afrikan nation from the 1970's to the present. The two dominant features of this process of transformation are a)the phenomenal rise of the comprador bourgeoisie in the 1970's and 80's, and b)the rapid transformation of this comprador bourgeoisie into a transnational bourgeoisie from the 1980's to the present. As will be argued throughout this paper, this transformation not only changed the overall structural composition of the New Afrikan bourgeoisie, it has forever altered its political worldview and program.

Part 1 – The Interrogations
Interrogating the "National" Question

Barack Obama has asserted on several occasions a) that race doesn't matter and b) that there is only "one" America.

The implication of these statements, even if only stated for strategic affect, is that the national contradictions within the US settler-colonial project have been negated and resolved. Even a cursory glance at the socio-economic inequalities between the various nationalities in the US reveals that these assertions are blatantly false. However, the unprecedented success of Obama's campaign and the ground it has broke as it relates to a "Black" candidate appealing to white voters on a national level revels that something qualitative has changed in this country. The question is what is it?

I argue that the source of the qualitative change lies in the changing composition of class throughout the US settler-colonial project. The advance of global capital and its transformation of production and accumulation throughout the capitalist world-system generated this compositional shift. I posit that the process of transformation popularly called "globalization" has created a transnational bourgeoisie and growing multi-national or "cosmopolitan" transnational service and working classes. It is my position that Barack Obama is a member of and represents the political and economic interests of the transnational bourgeoisie and the social interests of the growing transnational classes. More specifically, Barack Obama is a product of the New Afrikan transnational bourgeoisie, which emerged in the main from the comprador or neo-colonial sector of the New Afrikan bourgeois class between the 1970's to the present.

The fundamental question regarding this new class composition for progressive and revolutionary forces within the New Afrikan national liberation movement is how to strategically relate to Barack Obama and this transnational bourgeois class? Is this class (or class fraction) a friend or a foe of the New Afrikan national liberation movement? I argue three things:

1. That the material basis for the traditional class collaboration theory of the united and/or national liberation front strategy of oppressed peoples and nations in general, and of its historic application to the New Afrikan national liberation movement in particular, no longer applies.

2. That the left has not developed a general or particular theory of how to strategically relate to these new class forces

continued on next page.....

Barack Obama and the New Afrikan "National Question"

continued from page 1...

3. As a result, we are presently ill equipped theoretically and programmatically to address the Obama phenomenon and seize the historic opportunities it presents to advance the interests of the national liberation and multi-national working class movements.

How does the transnational bourgeoisie differ from other bourgeoisie classes, particularly amongst oppressed nations like the New Afrikan nation? The general theory of national liberation maintains that there are two primary fractions of the capitalist or bourgeois class (that is the class that owns and controls the means of production). These are 1) the national, progressive, or "anti-imperialist" bourgeoisie and 2) the comprador or "sell-out", "Uncle Tom", or neo-colonial bourgeoisie.

The national or anti-imperialist bourgeoisie is theoretically a progressive force drawn from the organic, inner driven life of the oppressed nation that is materially compelled to promote the development of the productive forces of the nation for its own self-interests, and to resist the incursion of imperialism and its suppression of this autonomous national development for these selfsame interests.

The comprador or sell-out bourgeoisie is theoretically a reactionary force also drawn from the organic, inner driven life of the oppressed nation, which is conversely compelled to collaborate with imperialism to retard the autonomous or self-determining development of the oppressed nation.

The fundamental difference between these two bourgeois fractions and the transnational fraction is their organic relationship to the oppressed nation. The national and comprador bourgeoisies are dependent upon relations of production within the social and political life of the oppressed nation. Meaning they are both dependent on the working masses of the oppressed nation for their very existence, and hence can be held accountable to the working classes within it in various ways. The transnational bourgeoisie on the other hand, even though it emerged primarily from the comprador fraction in New Afrika and elsewhere, is not dependent for its existence upon the oppressed nation and its relations of production. The transnational bourgeoisie, as its name implies, is not a national or national-state bound entity. Its basis for existence lies in exploiting the peoples and working classes of the globe. It is generally only accountable to or held in check by its fractional partners and rivals (largely through their financial control of various capital markets as exhibited by their deflation of various national-state markets like Mexico in the early-1990s; Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and South Korea in the late 1990s; and Brazil and Argentina at the turn of this century).

Now, while I posit that this understanding of Obama's positioning helps us to understand his relationship with the New Afrikan nation and its historic demands, I argue that we still do not completely understand at this point, how it relates to his mass appeal to white voters in many instances who are not part of this transnational formation. This I argue, we as progressives and revolutionaries, have to interrogate further to gain a deeper understanding of its strategic potential.

Interrogating the Campaign

Despite what one may personally think of Obama and the principle merits of his campaign, what we have to acknowledge is that his actions and his campaign are deeply rooted in a particular analysis of how to address national oppression in the US. This analysis is rooted in the "integrationist" and "beloved community" narratives of the New Afrikan petit bourgeois leadership of the Civil Rights Movement and its white liberal bourgeois patrons. The strategy behind this narrative appeal is to highlight the commonalities between the oppressor and oppressed peoples, rather than address their contradictions and differences.

This strategy is rooted in the reality that the road to victory goes through the white electorate and its sheer numerical strength. Based on this reality, I argue there are two historical dynamics that have fundamentally shaped the Obama campaign and its strategy.

1. No Democratic candidate has won a majority of white voters since 1964. For a Democratic candidate to win, they are going to have to win a sizeable portion of, if not the majority of, the white settler vote.
2. The Jesse Jackson campaigns of 1984 and 1988. These two campaigns serve as the primary negative examples for the Obama campaign. They illustrate what NOT to do as an Afrikan candidate running for President, which has determined key aspects of his strategy, particularly his methods of appeal to white and Jewish voters in particular. Based on these realities, the Obama campaign made a deliberate and strategic choice NOT to base his candidacy in the institutions (like the Black church, civic organizations, unions, and the media) or historic demands of the New Afrikan nation. In order to give himself the opportunity to win, Obama must avoid being viewed as a "Black" candidate by any and all means. This explains in part, why he has distanced himself from the likes of Jesse Jackson, Louis Farrakhan, and Jeremiah Wright – the "traditional" representatives of the "progressive" New Afrikan bourgeoisie.

However, his campaign has also relied upon the staunch support of the Democratic Party by New Afrikan people. New Afrikans have been the most consistent base of support for the Democratic Party since the 1964 election of Lydon B. Johnson. In fact, New Afrikans have voted consistently for Democratic Presidential candidates in the range of 80 – 90% since 1956. This fact however, should not be surprising. Democratic candidates can and do take the New Afrikan vote for granted because in the main, New Afrikans have no other genuine political option to represent their interests. Knowing this, Obama and his campaign know that they have to make few special appeals to New Afrikans and most of the other oppressed peoples within the "traditional" Democratic Party coalition to garner their votes (certain "Latino" populations it can be argued might constitute exceptions).

Interrogating the Popular Forces

Regardless of how marginalized New Afrikan demands and institutions are to the Obama campaign, the fact is that since Obama's Iowa victory in January, New Afrikans have turned out in near record numbers to support his campaign for the Democratic nomination. How do we explain this outpouring of support despite his lack of engagement with New Afrikan demands and institutions?

Further, how do we explain his victories in states like Iowa, Kansas, Oregon, Colorado, Connecticut, Nebraska, Vermont, and Wyoming where the vast majority of the electorate are white settlers who are not substantively incorporated into the transnational nexus of production?

Part of the answer I believe lies in the transnational class developments spoken of earlier. The other part of the answer I believe lies in the popular response to the last 7 years of the Bush regime. As a direct result of the failed occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, the accumulation of unprecedented debt, the partisan management of the economy, the exposed lies and deceit, and the hostile, belligerent, and dictatorial "style" of management, this election is in many ways serving as a popular anti-Bush referendum.

The popular, multi-national, multi-class forces engaging the Obama campaign are clearly clamoring for a change of management. This was first evidenced in the elections of 2006 and has been further illustrated in several off-term Congressional elections in Illinois, Louisiana, and Mississippi where Democrats took elections in long-held Republican districts. Barack Obama, for reasons of personal history (including his newness to Capital Hill), style (particularly his cultivated charisma and flair for the optimal, however programmatically empty it may be), and strategy (including a tacit exploitation of cultural stereotypes about New Afrikan people being good listeners and empathizers) has thus far demonstrated that he would be a profoundly different manager than either of his remaining Democrat or Republican rivals.

What I think progressives and revolutionaries have to be clear on in relating to these popular forces is that a clamoring for a change of management does not equate to a clamoring for a fundamental change of program. It is on the question of program that I would argue that the national question strongly reenters the fry and could perhaps fracture the broad multi-national, multi-class alliance thus far mobilized by the Obama campaign.

For instance, the historic demands of New Afrikan people are not going to goaway without a revolutionary transformation of the US settler-colonial state. In fact, as the mortgage crisis deepens over the course of the next 2 to 4 years, some of the demands, like economic development and reparations perhaps, are only going to become stronger.

Likewise, the transnational capital interests supporting Obama's campaign have no intentions of stopping their accumulation mission. Rather, they are trying to expand it through the application of a friendlier management approach of their primary regulating instruments – namely the US military, treasury, and Federal Reserve Bank. And further, many of the white service and working class voters who are supporting Obama are not demanding an end to imperialism and globalization, but a return to the high standards of living they are accustomedand feel entitled to as settlers, i.e. "Americans".

Interrogating the Moment

This is an extremely unique moment in human history, one that should not be slept on by progressives and revolutionaries anywhere, let alone in the US.

There are three general things that make this moment particularly unique:

1. The rapid collapse of the ecological systems that support human civilization as a direct consequence of the capitalist world-systems need for constant growth and expansion and its dependence on a petrochemical driven system of mass industrial production to stimulate and sustain this growth.

2. The declining hegemony (in both its geo-political and Gramscian connotations) of the US imperial state and the shift to a multi-polar geopolitical world order.

3. The comparative weakening of the US national economy and the deepening of transnational production and accumulation.

In order to be properly contextualized, the Obama campaign and corresponding "phenomenon" must be situated as a direct response to this unique moment in history. As has been argued earlier, his campaign is clearly a factional response, one fundamentally serving the interests of the transnational bourgeoisie and its means and instruments of accumulation and rule.

The two fundamental questions stemming from this assessment are, 1) is this class and the alliance of forces it has amassed strong enough to contain the contradictions it has unleashed and 2) can it continue its accumulation program and political project without a major transformation away from petrochemical dependent production?

I argue that the answer to both questions is emphatically, NO. Returning to our focus of analyzing the Obama campaign in relation to the New Afrikan national question, there are several examples that clearly illustrate why.

The transnational program of accumulation is fundamentally driven by afinance driven post-Fordist, intelligence dominated system of production. The intense mechanization of this production regime is rapidly dislocating millions, if not billions, of workers, worldwide. The New Afrikan working class was one of the first and most devastated sectors of the international proletariat hit by this accumulation regime. Since the 1970's, millions of New Afrikans have been economically dislocated and physically displaced by this transformation, which is only set to worsen with the crisis of finance (witnessed with the mortgage crisis that robbed millions of New Afrikans of their merge capital equity) and the deepening of global production. What is also clear is that the options of absorbing this surplus labor into the low-wage service economy or warehousing (i.e. incarcerating) it, is reaching its political and financial limits.

The likely outcomes of the escalating crisis are:
1. More intense economic dislocation
2. More intense physical displacement and forced relocation (New Orleans being a clear precedent)
3. More intense and concentrated New Afrikan resistance
4. An escalation of the demands made on the state and capital by New Afrikans.

As a representative of the transnational bourgeoisie, its production regime, and the US imperial state, how would Obama be compelled to address these contradictions? I argue that he would fundamentally have to exercise the Nixon option as it related to the New Afrikan nation (and other oppressed nations within and beyond US national-state boarders). Plainly stated the Nixon option is the calculated employment of "carrot and the stick" stratagems. Obama's carrot would be to ameliorate or buy off a sectors of the New Afrikan bourgeoisie and working class by offering a set of concessions, primarily in the realm of loan forgiveness (for the mortgage crisis) and job training programs (more than likely for "Green Jobs" and the like). The stick would be the strategic application of state repression against resistant and non-compliant forces within the New Afrikan working class.

continued on page 4 ...

Southern California Urban Network: Fighting Gentrification, Gang Injunctions and Police Violence

by Vik Chaubey

Los Angeles-area inner city communities in the past two years have been facing a growing number of inter-connected problems like gentrification, gang injunctions, sellout politicians, attacks against the residents of housing authority projects, and an ongoing lack of opportunities and jobs. L.A. is facing a particularly tough time with the California housing crisis and the state's large, structural budget deficit.

The inner city has been hit hard by the neglect of the L.A. political and economic elite, and now the elites are proposing to attack the problems by attacking the community! They are pushing development strategies that have no benefit for inner city communities. New schools, new police facilities and jails, new rail lines are being used as part of a strategy of population removal, replacement and control. Mayor Villaraigosa, in announcing an "austerity" budget for the city in which most programs and staffing were cut, insisted that increased funding for and hiring of new police officers would go forward even as other social services were slashed.

In June 2006 I formed the Southern California Urban Network to deal with problems of the L.A. inner city and the inner cities close to the L.A. inner city, like Compton, Carson, Inglewood, Hawthorne, and Long Beach. The focus would be on issues important to the inner cities, especially issues like gentrification, police violence, gang injunctions, access to meaningful education, prisoner rights, and creating inner city development based on the inner city culture, not on white mainstream culture.

We are 100% committed to grass-roots organizing and we are trying to come up with new grass-roots approaches to organizing in the inner city. We started organizing in the Imperial Courts housing project in Compton (we were formed there) in summer 2006. Our formation in one respect was a response to the police violence that was becoming a big problem in the L.A. inner city and especially in Compton in 2006. We helped to organize rallies in summer 2006 and passed out informational flyers on a weekly basis during the summer. We were effective in our message and people rallied to our support of inner city culture.

It was a joint effort with other people that wanted to help the people in Compton. We produced flyers stressing the importance of everybody working together -- gangs, young, elderly and everybody else. In the final analysis we had successes but we did not change the dynamics of what was taking place in Compton or the L.A. inner city. But we showed the potential of what grass roots organizing can do and the potential of uplifting people.

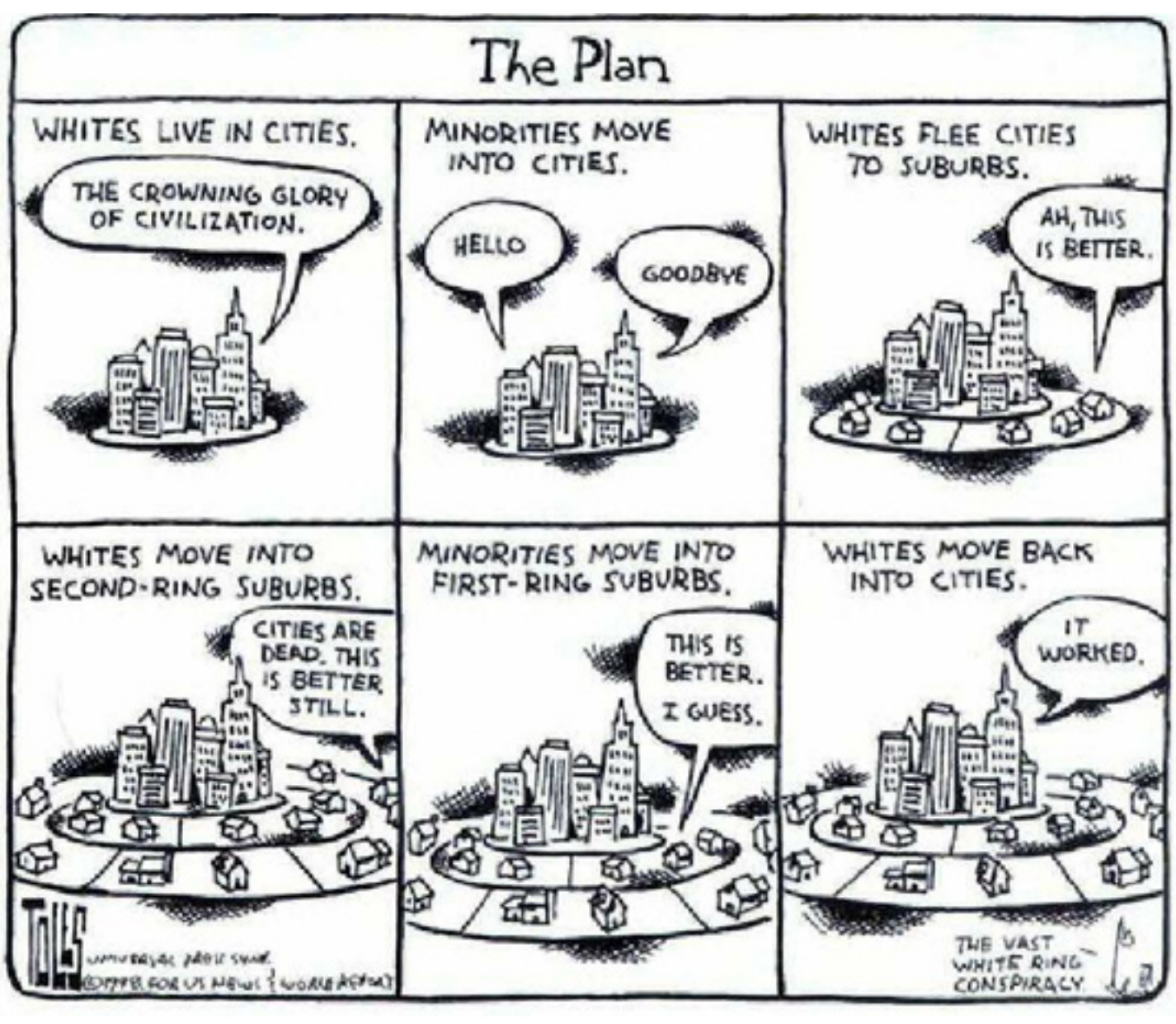
Compton was our starting point and in 2007 in Boyle Heights, a historically Chicano community in East Los Angeles, we made anti-gentrification and opposition to gang injunctions the main issues in our organizing. Unlike most of East L.A., which historically has been unincorporated territory outside the Los Angeles city limits, Boyle Heights is inside L.A. proper politically. It is a prime real estate market adjacent to downtown, and like the mostly African communities of poor and homeless people downtown, has been targeted for gentrification.

As in Compton, we employed similar grass roots organizing strategies but our cause was different here. Police violence was the main issue in Compton; but in Boyle Heights, the main cause was opposing gentrification. We employed a strategy of anti-gentrification and opposition to gang injunctions because both are similar in understanding the development strategy for Boyle Heights. Boyle Heights was a much tougher place to organize especially with the changes taking place. In Compton people are more organized and rooted in a sense of their own community history. With so much of Boyle Heights, the historic Chicano population has left in recent years, and the newer people, including many more recent Mexicano migrants, do not have the same level of interest in local politics or know the history of Boyle Heights and the Chicano resistance.

We have found a certain number of people who understand what Boyle Heights has meant and means. I have organized in Boyle Heights over the last 12 months with a person who grew up in the Hazard projects in Ramona Gardens. Together we have gone through entire Boyle Heights area, talking with young people, elders, students and community groups. Boyle Heights is facing gentrification and the housing projects are under attack. For some time, Mayor Villaraigosa and Supervisor Gloria Molina have been pushing a medical research 'industrial park' connected to USC for the area. The city has been building a new police station and lock-up in the area, with multi-million dollar cost overruns, to contain and control the poor residents. The MTA Gold Line is being extended through the area, to cement the connection to the downtown business district. The rail line is being used to anchor up-scale shops, housing and corporate chains to replace local businesses and residents. The area's City Council member, Jose Huizar, formerly the president of the LA Unified School Board, is a part of the pro-business east-side political machine. He has been promoting gentrification and supporting gang injunctions. This is a tactic that been used in several neighborhoods by City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, who also works closely with developer-dominated "neighborhood councils" to promote gentrification. We did struggle to get people to understand the gang injunctions and what they mean in relation to gentrification.

Another obstacle has been non-profits, which have come increasingly to substitute themselves for grass-roots community groups. They operate based on priorities set by their funding sources, under strict limits of their activities set by the tax laws, and with an undemocratic "board-and-staff" method of organization under which community people, even if they nominally "members," have no real say. These groups now have a lot of influence in Boyle Heights, and are not willing to work with people who have different strategies from them.

We put a lot of effort organizing in the projects and areas of Boyle Heights that we feel we can reach through different approaches to grass roots community-based organizing. We have used informational flyers, person to person organizing, and we have also gone to the streets and talk to all types of people. We have done rallies, protests, and community meetings and hope to do more events in relation to anti-gentrification organizing. Both in Compton and Boyle Heights we showed the people that we should be proud of our inner city culture that has been our trademark. In a period when the media and the establishment, as well as right-wing forces like the Minutemen are trying to foment Black-Brown rivalry, we have been bringing people from Compton and Boyle Heights together. We have organized in the projects both in Compton and Boyle Heights and are reaching low-income oppressed people that most non-profits and so-called left groups seem to ignore. These poor people are important to any strategy of real change because of the attacks they face every day. We are coming up with new grass roots approaches to organizing and we hope to organize in other places with a strong emphasis on inner city solidarity. Our approaches are rooted in L.A. inner city history, particularly the inter-related struggles of Blacks and Chicanos. That history of solidarity and unity is important in how we organize.



Vik Chaubey has worked with People Against Racist Terror and is a founder of Southern California Urban Network. For more information, contact him at:

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Barack Obama and the New Afrikan "National Question:" Are We Free Yet?

...continued from page 2

The purpose of the Nixon option now, as during his Presidency in the late 60's and early 70's, would be to fracture the political unity of the New Afrikan nation against the transnational bourgeoisie and its program.

Staying with our analysis, it is also clear that the Green transformation option is a dead end for the transnational bourgeoisie and its program. Although elements of the transnational bourgeoisie are clearly leading the charge for the development of "green" capitalism, it is not, and in fact cannot, advocate for the transformation of scale needed to curb the production of greenhouse gases to stall or reverse climate change without bankrupting itself. As a result, it cannot and will not generate enough "Green Jobs" to reincorporate the millions of New Afrikans that have been economically dislocated by transnational production.

Yet and still, what we can posit with confidence at this moment is that capital is going to go to extreme lengths to extend its life and barbaric domination over human civilization. Conversely, as the events of the last 7 years have illustrated, we should also expect to see an escalation and diversification of resistance.

Part 2 -Outlining a Framework to Seize the Moment

So, how should the New Afrikan and multi-national liberation and working class movements strategically engage this historic campaign and critical moment?

One of the first priorities of engagement is theoretical development. One of the principle things the New Afrikan and multi-national left movements must figure out is how to engage to the transnational bourgeoisie. As stated earlier, as of now, our movements do not have a general, let alone united, perspective on this question. In fact, I would argue that most of our forces are still utilizing the traditional united or national liberation front theory to determine their positions and courses of action.

I argue that because the transnational bourgeoisie cannot be easily pressured by the national liberation and working class movements within the US setter-colonial project, these movements should not invest the majority of their time and energy engaging an "inside" strategy of critical engagement with the Obama campaign. I argue that thinking strategically, these forces should concentrate their energy on building autonomous political movements and institutions (like the Reconstruction Party) within the US national-state that seek to build a broad multi-national united front of oppressed peoples and workers that makes a principle of building strategic links and alliances with the autonomous national liberation, international working class, global justice, and environmental movements throughout the world. As the transnational bourgeoisie thinks and acts globally, we must also think and act globally to advance our own interests.

However, as the vast majority of our peoples and forces are going to support the Obama campaign and potential Presidency, in the short-term we tactically have to invest a critical degree of time and energy engaging them, if only to try and win a considerable portion of these forces to a left perspective and program.

And it is here that we need theoretical clarity. How do we offer a radical critique of Obama, his class position, interests, and program without alienating ourselves from the popular masses? How do we move these forces to engage in autonomous self-determining action outside of the Democratic Party? How do we educate and move the white settler forces mobilized by Obama to actively engage an anti-racist-determining action outside of the Democratic Party? How do we educate and move the white settler forces mobilized by Obama to actively engage an anti-racist, anti-imperialist perspective and program?

To these ends, a hard-pressed counter campaign against Obama I would argue is not the most effective or productive way to engage these popular forces from this point forward. Rather, I think the multi-national left must seek to highlight the contradictions of Obama's campaign and program through a combined "outside-inside" strategy that seeks to advance a coherent set of principle demands and push him and the forces he has mobilized sharply to the left. Again, I think the formation of an autonomous "outside" political force should be primary. However, what is perhaps most tactically critical is that both the "outside" and "inside" forces aggressively promote and propagate these common demands; vigorously dialogue and debate in a principled, non-sectarian manner; and openly communicate and collaborate whenever and wherever possible.

Some of the primary strategic demands that must be raised are drawn from the historic demands of oppressed peoples, particularly New Afrikans, combined with the demands of the multi-national working class, women's, and environmental justice movements. The combination of these demands will expose not only the limits of the transnational bourgeoisie and its production regime, but of US imperialism itself and its inability to make good on its democratic promises, either at "home" or abroad. Some of the most critical of these demands include:

1. The full and immediately ending of the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan.
2. The full and unqualified support for Palestinian self-determination and the Right to Return.
3. The full and immediate Right of Return for the more than 250,000 New Afrikans displaced from their homelands in New Orleans and Mississippi Gulf Coast.
4. The repeal of the "war on drugs" and mandatory minimum sentencing that has resulted in the imprisonment of more than 2.5 million people, the vast majority of whom are New Afrikans.
5. The full support for the rights of women and the LGBTQ communities, including full support for initiatives like the Equal Rights Amendment and "gay" marriage.
6. The full and immediate repeal of the various Patriot Acts and other undemocratic anti-terror laws and Executive Orders.
7. The full, complete, and unconditional amnesty for the millions of migrant and displaced workers in the US.
8. The full and unqualified commitment to reduce the carbon imprint of the US by 80% or more by 2016 to stem the production of climate changing greenhouse gases.
9. The commitment to the public financing of alternative solar, wind, aquatic, and organic energy to sustain the economy, and the elimination of all nuclear energy and hard metal extraction.
10. Reparations for Indigenous, New Afrikan, Xicano, Puerto Rican, Hawaiian and other peoples and nations colonized by the US (including Guam, Alaskan natives, etc.).

(See also the demands articulated in the "Draft Manifesto for a Reconstruction Party" by the National Organizing Committee for a Reconstruction Party.)

By Way of Conclusion

Although the road ahead may not be clear, and the outcome of our actions far from certain, the New Afrikan national liberation movement, and the movements of all oppressed and exploited peoples, must seize this critical moment. The survival of humanity demands that we must act, and act in our own interests. Barack Obama nor any other bourgeois messiah is going to liberate us. We must liberate ourselves.

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For a full list of references and resources, and to give feedback and commentary, write to:

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WHY THE EMPHASIS ON WHITE-SKIN PRIVILEGE IS WHITE CHAUVINIST: The Problematic Of "Race" Needs To Be Replaced By The Restoration Of the National Questions

Speech by Fred Ho, June 5, 2008, State University of New York-Stony Brook, Conference on Class in America and Tribute to Ted Allen, organized by Michael Zweig

This address shall vigorously critique the emphasis given to "white-skin privilege" as the dominant characteristic in the conceptualizing of the oppression of so-called "peoples of color" in the U.S., and for its odious contribution to reinforcing white chauvinism within the U.S. left and working-class by delimiting the struggle of "oppressed nationalities" (what I prefer to call so-called "peoples of color") to the goal of integration (with the white oppressor nation).

Indeed, ironically and paradoxically, I shall reveal the major problems of "white blind spot" in the "race" analysis framework that promotes a mistaken historical account of the development of the U.S. nation-state, the failure to apprehend how the genocide and conquest of the Native Indigenous nations, the importation of African and Asian laboring populations, the annexation of Mexico, Hawaii and transfer or purchase of colonial spoils has created the ascendancy of U.S. capitalism into the premiere global imperialist power by the mid-20th century, a process through which a white oppressor nation attains social, cultural and political supremacy, thereby "racializing" every aspect of American society.

I shall argue for the replacement of the "race" formulation and the over-emphasis upon "white-skin privilege" with a "return" to the national question(s) framework and argue that no separate politics or forms of organizing that focus upon whites is correct or efficacious, but arguably, harmful and hurtful to the cause of building working class unity and power within the U.S.

A fresh and creative analysis of the stratification and division of the U.S. working class will be offered that rejects the dominance and leading role of "white workers", heretofore the assumed project of a white chauvinist-plagued U.S. labor and left. Rectifying political strategies and organizing approaches will be proposed which emphasize the central and essential importance of re-conceptualizing the struggle to end white supremacy, white racism and inequality to be that one of building a multiplicity of national liberation struggles which require the leadership and organization of the multi-lingual, multi-cultural, multi-national U.S. working class and allies.

The U.S.A. has a peculiar historical development. Founded by European settler colonization, the U.S.A. grew to its present borders through military force, the purchasing of vast land territories that were the spoils from former colonial powers (viz., the Louisiana purchase from France and the $7.2 million purchase of Alaska from Russia), the military annexation of northern Mexico and the Hawaiian islands, and the expansion of settlements and industries to the Pacific Ocean, and the acquisition of islands and territories throughout the Caribbean, central America (eg., the Panama Canal) and the Pacific Islands (eg., Guam, America Somoa, etc.). Concurrently, via the manipulation of immigration laws, a concerted campaign to repopulate the continent of North America in favor of European-descended peoples and disfavoring all others, continues to the present.

Before the consolidation of the United States of America could occur, the Native peoples who inhabited the land that we now call "the lower 48", with a rough estimated population range at the beginning of the 16th century to be between one to 10 million, had to be driven off their lands to make way for the new settlers, and ultimately, given the resistance by the Natives, nearly annihilated.

At first, the early European settlers were at the mercy of Native benevolence and assistance. However, as settlers grew in number, their capitalist appetite for land and resources intensified. The Natives were unwilling to participate in the construction of a capitalist economic and social order. Social stratification and private ownership of land and resources was completely alien to them, and once experiencing the cruelties of exploitation and oppression, resisted such incursions and assaults upon their way of life and homeland.

The Christians brought the Devil to the "New World" and the Devil was them. So-called primitive peoples did not subscribe to the monotheism and anthropocentrism of the Europeans. It was not possible for these societies to regard even their enemies as sub-human or without a soul. It was not possible for them to regard nature as not a living being for which they, as humans, came from and belonged to. The Europeans, however, slaughtered and enslaved them as if they were logs to be felled, and their land and ecology nothing more than objects from which money could be made.

Native Americans could not be coerced into American plantation society or indentured servitude. Their completely non-capitalist mode of production, which had proven to be self-sufficient and stable for eons, were devoid of highly developed state repression structures, which could not be appropriated by and made to service the formation, facilitation and social control needs of a capitalist economy. The capitalist mode of production was as inimical to Native peoples as the diseases that the Europeans brought. Not predicated upon nor driven by profits and its concomitant social and cultural precepts of individualism, private ownership, monotheism, repressive state institutions, patriarchy and the nuclear family, etc. large scale social production was both completely foreign and toxic. Never had the Native peoples experienced such pandemics on the order introduced by Europeans: both biological and sociological.

Once it became clear that Native submission wasn't going to happen, American settler-colonialism proceeded full force with genocide: the destruction of the native mode of production, a horrific "ethnic-ecological cleansing" that cleared natural and human life, which had existed and evolved for tens of thousands of years, an unprecedented ecocide, genocide and matricide waged for a few centuries, all for the purpose of the imposition of a new settler-colonial society that would become the U.S.A.

Once the process of ecocide-genocide-matricide was underway, and settler-colonialist society expanded, endeavoring to build a capitalist mode of production foisted upon a continent that neither needed nor engendered it, the newly expanding U.S.A. proceeded with the importation of a foreign-originated labor force, to at first supplement the already-existing indentured labor force of former Europeans, and then once the cotton gin revolutionized the instruments of mass production, for large scale agrarian labor.

Why were enslaved Africans more suitable? African feudalism and proto-capitalism (the production of commodities for exchange and the social and class relations needed to facilitate that exchange) had similarities to European feudalism and emerging capitalism: Large scale social production, huge surpluses, huge repressive state apparatuses (often used to facilitate slave trading among other Africans, Arabs and Europeans), widespread use of precious metal currency and also non-metal symbolic currency (eg., cowry shells), development of large sectors of production for exchange (textiles and food production), rich resources for luxury items coveted by the European market (precious metals, ivory, etc), elaborate infra-structure from centuries of inter-continental trade with Europe and Asia.

Imported Africans didn't arrive as a ready-amalgamated nationality or people. They were valued precisely because they were so disparate and ethnically-culturally-linguistically so varied, and with the forced splitting of kinship and family ties, made even more conducive to organized exploitation for capitalist plantations. Hence U.S. capitalism necessitated this ironic amalgamation of Africans in the U.S.A., erasing particular African national or tribal identities for the new, amalgamated oppressed nationality identity as African Americans.

During the entire 19th century, the expansion and consolidation of the U.S.A. nation-state included massive land acquisitions that included the 1803 Louisiana Purchase from France battered by the loss of Haiti and strained from its foreign wars and domestic revolts; the military conquest of 2/3rds Mexico which became incorporated as the U.S. southwest; the ongoing pacification wars against the Native peoples; the acquisition of territorial spoils from the Spanish-American War; and the military annexation of the Hawaiian islands, 3000 miles from the Pacific shores of the U.S.A. In the early 20th century, the vast territory of resource-rich Alaska, purchased from a war-and-revolution-battered Russia for a measly $7.2 million in 1867, would be conferred U.S. territory status in 1912. By 1959, two lands, completely disconnected from the other 48 states, would become the 49th and 50th states of the U.S.A. (respectively, Alaska on January 3, 1959 and Hawaii on August 21, 1959).

From the 18th to mid-19th centuries, during the consolidation process of the U.S.A. nation-state, the American bourgeoisie had constant external conflicts primarily from England and France, as well as a growing internal conflict between the southern agrarian capitalists with the northern industrial capitalists. The Civil War was the consolidation of a unified nation-state under the political and economic leadership of the northern industrial capitalists, who victorious, and in control over the surplus profits of the internationally-traded southern-produced cash crops (cotton, tobacco, etc.) could now begin the formation of American finance capital and expand throughout the Americas and to the rest of the world (exporting either direct U.S. colonial rule and/or financial domination). As this unprecedented and exponential expansion of capital was occurring, huge labor needs had to be filled with the importation of labor from around the world and this period of the late 19th century is really the emergence of a U.S. multi-national proletariat, tho fitted into a constantly shifting racial matrix. This shift is primarily characterized by the increasing binary categorizing of "race" as "white" and "colored". The price of the ticket to settler-colonial Yankee American society was to become "white."

The myriad forms of national inequality cojoined with white supremacy to consolidate the U.S.A. as a racially defined nation-state in which an American or anything American became synonymously white.

Both for the purposes of social control, detailed in the important work of Ted Allen and others, and for what I've argued as the necessity of nation-state identity and structural formation and consolidation, the separation of peoples into "white" versus "others/foreigners/oppressed" in the U.S.A. was facilitated by the virus of "race" as a bio-social pseudo-scientific/cultural construction, extended from its original applications by European colonization.

The privileges accorded to "whites" (i.e., those accorded the status/identity as Americans) were consequently rooted in the conquest and subjugation of entire peoples, and reproduced and consolidated by a matrix of ideological political and socio-cultural privileges granted to those who were accorded the status and identity of being "American" (which meant white). Those deemed white/American had the benefits of glorification and "manifest destiny", whereas complete dehumanization was the condition for all those deemed "non-white" and excluded from consideration as Americans. White racism and white supremacy thus become normative. That which is American is equated as white. That which is or who is not "white" are NOT American.

Large influxes of Europeans to the U.S.A., including those who suffered national oppression in their homelands, such as the Irish, or faced harsh persecution, such as Jews and other religious-ethnic groups, were accorded the opportunity to join white American society, and share in the spoils of white-settler colonialism and expansionism. Though such European groups encountered initial discrimination, overall, the access and possibility for white assimilation was far preferable as participants in the consolidation of the Yankee nation-

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WHY THE EMPHASIS ON WHITE-SKIN PRIVILEGE IS WHITE CHAUVINIST:

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state than the perpetual wretchedness of exclusion and oppression for non-whites.

The unprecedented opportunities of settlerism, both real and hyped, included such privileges and enticements as the possibility for ownership of small plots of land, relative freedoms including voting rights for white males, small business ownership, and a host of other opportunities. What was required to access these real or propagandized privileges was a dedication to and support for the Yankee American way of life: kill off the Indians and take all of their land, disallow citizenship and competition from formerly enslaved Africans, remove and exterminate the Asiatics, keep the Mexicans subjugated. All "white" immigrants were given relatively unrestricted access to American citizenship. With the Chinese exclusionary immigration laws, tantamount to genocide, the Chinese were the only immigrant group which steadily decreased in number for nearly a century. Racist immigration exclusion and persecution would extend to all Asian/pacific groups until 1964.

The formal history of the U.S. is the narrative of oppressor nation building. The counter-narrative is the history of the oppressed nations and nationalities. The American multi-national proletariat emerges during this historical process, beginning after the Civil War with the unification of American capital, the integration of a common national market (greatly facilitated by the trans-continental railroad for which super-exploited Chinese labor outperformed the higher paying Irish workforce, and for which the Chinese workers were both barred from the ranks of U.S. organized labor as well as the annals of American history), the promotion of a white supremacist American historico-cultural narrative and identity with a full repertoire of Yankee Doodle Dandy mythologies and grand master narratives from song to scholarship.

To conclude my analysis of the historical development of the American nation-state, I want to summarize the concomitant white oppressor nation building process and the process of national oppression as indelible to American society:

1. White skin privileges both are byproducts of and contributors to white settler colonial national construction.
2. White privileges, as partial, tenuous and minor as they may be for poor and exploited whites, exceed the condition of national oppression relegated to those not conferred as white: genocide, terror, extreme restrictions, exclusion and constant brutal oppression.
3. In many cases whites have not been the majority population in "American history", but became dominant both numerically and socio-politically through genocide, unjust immigration laws, forced exodus, ghettoization and marginalization, all practices aimed at the repopulation of the continent to ensure the hegemony of white supremacy.

The problem of race is that it primarily juxtaposes the political question as one of integration, as one of learning how to get along with one another, and not dealing with the question of returning land and territory and the battle for national equality. So it is about how do we get rid of our racist ideas or how do we deal with white privilege. White privilege is only one phenomenon of national oppression. The privileges happen because of the inequality between peoples, of which the first basis was depriving people of their land, resources and control of the fruits of their labor and innovations. The process of Americanization was the seizure of land and territory and then absorption or assimilation of that territory and those peoples into this mythical white supremacist thing called America. African Americans become Black Yankees when they assimilate the imperialist history and values of the Unites States, as opposed to seeing themselves as oppressed nationalities. Malcolm X demarcated the difference between identifying as oppressed versus identifying with the oppressor values and narrative: "We [Africans in the U.S.] are not Americans, we are victims of America".

The political logic of "anti-racism" or "fighting white-skin privileges" ironically privileges the target of struggle upon the attitudes and behaviors of whites. It presumes white leadership, the *a priori*-ness of white numerical majority, the sanctity of the current borders and configuration of the 50 states, and even the presumption of white working class inclusion in the revolutionary struggle to end U.S. imperialism, viz., the domination of U.S. monopoly capital in the domestic aspect of such struggle. And hence, the U.S. left since its formal inception, with the exception of such notable energies as the African Blood Brotherhood, the CPUSA adoption of the Comintern position of the Black-belt Nation thesis, and the revolutionary oppressed nationality movements of the 1960s-early 1970s, has been plagued with the fundamental white chauvinist problem of centering and basing the U.S. multinational working class movement upon the white working class, i.e., the focus and concentration upon the workers of the oppressor nation, rather than centering, focusing and basing the leadership and development of forces among the workers of the oppressed nations/nationalities.

The U.S. multinational working class has erroneously been viewed as necessarily being a white majority (and the attendant chauvinist presumption, with majority white leadership). Rather, oppressed nationality workers are not only the numerical majority relative to their populations, but have, both respectively and collectively, it can be argued, greater political inclination towards radical and revolutionary positions due to the intrinsic nature of their contradiction with imperialism: super-exploitation combined with national oppression and external domination.

Only in the above cited notable exception of focus and concentration upon building the political leadership of the revolutionary national movements have any forces truly respected and grasped the objective reality that the national movements are objectively revolutionary, irregardless of, and with or without, the approval, presence or support of whites and white workers.

Thus the white integrationist-white chauvinist plagued Left has disregarded the importance of building and leading "nationality-in-form" formations, such as oppressed nationality student unions, militant community forces, independent cultural institutions, and the creative labor formations that elevate the role and leadership of oppressed nationality workers. The U.S. left has given scant emphasis upon the struggle to force the U.S. government to honor all treaties made with the Native nations, fighting for national rights, self-government, return of stolen lands and resources, reparations and the dismantling and eradiction of all vestiges of white settler-colonialism, including the hegemony of classical music orchestras, white mythologies in education and scholarship, and even the notion of a white identity.

As part of upholding national self-determination, the U.S. left, in engendering the multiplicity of national liberation struggles, would support the dismantling and reconfiguration of the U.S. national borders should the struggle of oppressed nations culminate in forms of independence, autonomy or new federation relations. Asian Americans, for example, in the oppressed nation of Hawaii must choose between siding with the Yankee oppressor nation/identity or with being part of the oppressed Hawaiian nation: electing to identify as "I'm kanaka maoli (Hawaiian) of Japanese descent," for example. A white person must proclaim, "I am a new Afrikan of European descent" or a "Xicano of European descent", should they reside in what is now Mississippi or Texas, respectively.

Whites must recognize that they owe no special allegiance to white anything, including even the privileged view that the primary role of white leftists or white anti-racists is to concentrate in white communities. Whites have no entitlement to monopolize anything, EVEN THE DRAGS OF ORGANIZING WORK! The best way to "unlearn" whiteness (and be a true race traitor!) is to for people of European descent in the U.S.A. to give their all in exactly the same way as oppressed nationality freedom fighters: liberate stolen and occupied lands, return of resources and wealth, reparations, and to build a new society that will certainly mean the destruction of the U.S.A. as it has historically been constructed and construed, and the coming-into-being of voluntarily-associated liberated peoples and societies.

FREE THE BLACK RIDER 3

General T.A.C.O.

Comrade Mecca aka Aryana

Comrade Stress

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* Speaker - Shareef Abdullah (Black Panther Party member in the 70's and a social worker).
* A history of the Chicago Chapter of the Black Panther Party and Community Organizing by Michael D. McCarty
* Free the San Francisco 8 workshop by Ray Boudreaux and Henry W. (Hank) Jones. They will be showing a film called: LEGACY OF TORTURE.
* Her-story of the Riot Grrrl – Feminist Punk workshop by Shannon *Militant and Passive Action workshop by Jeff from Base Collective

Workshop on Lessons of SDS and the Weather Underground by Michael Novick (former member of SDS and Prairie Fire and editor of *Turning The Tide*)

Workshop by Mo Nishida of Asians for Jericho & Mumia

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"Outreach" or Alliance Building?

by Michael Novick, *Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)*

At the end of June, I participated in the "Los Angeles Social Forum," an attempt to hold a unifying gathering of people from many different movements and organizations in Los Angeles (and other parts of southern California) on the model of the World Social Forum and the first US Social Forum held last year in Atlanta. Those national and international gatherings have attracted large numbers of grassroots organizers from groups that identify with the concept of "civil society." The Atlanta gathering was particularly noteworthy for being predominantly people of color and women, and seemed to signal the emergence of a new generation of activists "in the trenches" of community resistance around issues like gentrification, AIDS, violence against women, Hurricane Katrina, and the war.

But the Los Angeles event did not draw large numbers of local activists, and most of those who participated were from the self-identified left and peace movement. The majority of the large number of workshops scheduled were sponsored by an alphabet-soup of socialist and communist organizations (FSP, RCP, PSL, WWP, ISO, etc.) and a smaller number by various solidarity activists around Latin America and the Middle East and peace groups such as Interfaith Communities United for Peace & Justice (ICUJP) and Iraq Veterans Against War (IVAW). A separate set of workshops were held concurrently under the auspices of the LASF at a different venue, associated with the Center for the Study of Political Graphics' "Prison Nation" poster exhibit. Those workshops, also sparsely attended, focused on criminal justice issues and gang truce work and included organizations such as Homies Unidos, the Youth Justice Coalition, and Families to Amend California's Three Strikes (FACTS).

In the wrap-up discussion, as participants who came to Sunday's "mini-assemblies" and stayed to discuss what the LA Social Forum had accomplished talked, it became clear why the LASF had fallen far short of organizers and participants hopes and dreams. As they summed up their long months of hard work and the small (and demographically narrow) turnout that resulted, organizers repeatedly talked about the need to do more and better "outreach." This is a self-defeating conception of what it would take to achieve an authentic forum of the people currently engaged in community activism around diverse issues such as gentrification and housing, health care, police abuse, prisons, education, migrants' rights and legalization, labor rights and a living wage, and the host of other struggles that are raging in Los Angeles.

The inadequacy of that conception helps explain how so few people would come to a unity-building conference in a city in which hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets on May 1, where recent rallies by families and friends of a few of the 14 or more people killed by the LAPD so far this year have drawn hundreds, where 40,000 teachers and an almost equal number of parents and students took to the streets at every school in the district against budget cuts just 3 weeks prior.

What the peace movement and the self-proclaimed "left" needs is not "more and better outreach," but a fundamental strategic reorientation to grassroots community-based organizing and base-building, and to alliance-building with other social forces who are in motion in this city. Finding allies requires learning about the different communities within this megalopolis and the issues that are of concern to them.

First and foremost in what is essentially a 'third world' city inside the U.S., this means communities of color: people of African descent, Chicano/Mexicano/indigenous people (including migrants and residents from Central America), Asians in all their diversity, (Arabs, Muslims and South Asians as well as Koreans, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Khmer and others). Building alliances means paying attention to the intersections of the issues affecting these communities, and the self-organizing that is taking place within them, and the policy issues and protests the (predominantly-'white') left has focused its energies on. But building alliances also means bringing some social weight to the table – not the weight of a self-proclaimed ideological vanguard, but the weight of grass-roots base-building of our own.

The kind of unity the organizers of the LA Social Forum were seeking is possible only on the basis of respect and support for self-determination: acknowledging the right of colonized people to define their own struggles, resistance, priorities and timetables. It is possible only on the basis of mutual solidarity, not charity, but fighting –really fighting—side by side against a common enemy. It requires people in the peace movement and those working for ameliorative social reforms, "clean" money elections, or universal health care to recognize that there is a fundamental and irreconcilable contradiction between the needs of the people and those of the Empire.

Failure to recognize this has led to defeat after defeat, and demoralized many activists and community people. After 40 years of environmentalism, the environment is in such distressed condition that the planetary ability to sustain life as we know it is threatened. After 40 years of prisoners' rights, prison reform, even prison abolitionism, the U.S. now incarcerates 25% of all the prisoners on earth, with no sign of stopping. After decades of peace activism, the U.S. is actively engaged in two land wars in Asia and has a military budget larger than the rest of the planet combined and still growing.

Calls for "peace and justice" and plans for "more and better outreach" are not enough. The only way to overcome this unadorned litany of "progressive" failure is a self-critical transformation of the weaknesses of elitism, racism, acceptance of the empire's legitimacy and identification with the oppressor that have thwarted our initiatives. What is needed is a commitment to decolonization, and to following the lead of the resistance and liberation struggles of colonized people. Nothing less will do.

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 10-12, 2008
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ACLU Sues Homeland Security over Immigrant Deaths

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a freedom of information lawsuit June 25 against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for refusing to turn over public documents related to the deaths of dozens of immigrant detainees. Filed in US District Court in Washington D.C., the lawsuit requests that the court order DHS to carry out a reasonable records search and speed up the processing of documents. The ACLU's legal action arises from alleged government abuses connected to the deaths of immigrants held in various detention facilities in the United States. The deaths were reportedly due to medical neglect.

"We know that medical care provided in many immigration centers is grossly inadequate and has resulted in unnecessary suffering and death," charged ACLU National Prison Project Director Elizabeth Alexander. "DHS must not be allowed to keep information about in-custody deaths secret.."

Also named in the lawsuit were the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency and the DHS Office of the Inspector General. There was no immediate comment about the lawsuit from the DHS or any of its agencies.

In a statement, the ACLU's Elizabeth Alexander urged the DHS and ICE to fulfill their obligation to inform the public why deaths of immigrants in US custody have occurred. "Unless ICE exhibits full transparency by releasing all of the information that we have requested, we are left little choice but to believe that it has something to hide," Alexander added.

Media reports of allegedly sub-standard healthcare conditions facing immigrant detainees have proliferated in recent months as the number of incarcerated immigrants has soared.

A report from the Transnational Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) of Syracuse University revealed that nearly 11 percent of 200,667 recent federal prisoners were serving time on immigration-related offenses. Although immigration law violations are still generally regarded as civil violations, the Bush Administration is increasingly prosecuting immigrants for fraud, identity theft, false documentation, conspiracy, and illegal re-entry.

According to TRAC, 9,350 immigrants were prosecuted for criminal offenses during the month of March 2008 alone. The prosecution caseload was more than double the one for the month of January.

Besides federally-operated jails, thousands of immigrants are held in private prisons operated by Halliburton and other companies contracted by the DHS. In 2007, the ACLU filed suit against the Corrections Corporation of America-run San Diego Correctional Facility for allegedly neglecting the medical needs of detainees. According to the civil liberties group, denial of medical services and bad healthcare policies resulted in the death of "numerous detainees" at the California prison.

The DHS's handling of immigrant detainees is also under scrutiny on Capitol Hill. In May, members of the House Committee on the Judiciary requested information from the DHS about reports that upwards of 250 migrants were sedated with psychiatric drugs while being deported in recent years.

Additional sources: La Jornada, June 26, 2007. Article by David Brooks. El
Universal, May 15, 2008.

Reported by "Frontera NorteSur" (FNS): on-line, U.S.-Mexico border news
Center for Latin American and Border Studies
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, New Mexico
For a free electronic subscription email
fnsnews@nmsu.edu

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK
FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) WE GO WHERE THEY GO: Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US: This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS: In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We aim to end all exploitation and oppression, and

WE INTEND TO WIN!

ARA-LA*POBOX 1055*CULVERCITY CA 90232*310-495-0299
antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com*www.antiracistaction.us

ACTION ANTI-RACISTE

LES 4 POINTS D'UNITE

1. NOUS ALLONS OU ILS VONT: Quand les fascistes s'organisent ou sont actifs en public, nous y sommes. Nous ne croyons pas que les ignorer ou se tenir loin d'eux soit une solution. Ne laissons jamais les nazis tenir la rue!

2. NOUS NE NOUS APPUYONS PAS SUR LES FLICS OU LA JUSTICE POUR FAIRE NOTRE TRAVAIL: Cela ne veut pas dire que nous n'allons jamais en cour. Mais nous comptons d'abord sur nous meme pour nous proteger et arreter les fascistes.

3. DEFENSE ANTISECTAIRE DES AUTRES ANTIFASCISTES: Le reseau AAR/ARA est compose de differents groupes et individus. Nous ne nous entendons pas sur tout et on ne s'empêche pas de confronter nos opinions. Mais dans ce mouvement, une attaque contre un est une attaque contre tous. Nous sommes solidaires.

4. Nous supportons le droit a l'avortement et la liberte pour tous de choisir ce qu'ils veulent faire de leur peau. AAR/ARA entend s'attaquer au dur travail qui permettra de construire un large et fort mouvement qui s'eleve contre le racisme, le sexisme, l'anti-semitisme, l'homophobie, l'exploitation des classes ouvrieres, la repression et la discrimination contre les demunis, les vieux, les jeunes et les plus opprimes du peuple.

NOUS VOULONS UNE SOCIETE SANS CLASSE
ET NOUS ALLONS GAGNER!

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What's melting down faster, the polar ice-caps or the Wall Street financial markets?

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***

When Huey P. Newton, Minister of Defense of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense was released from prison thanks to the "Free Huey or the sky's the limit!" campaign led by the BPP, he was asked how it felt to be free. He said, "I have only been moved from medium to minimum security." He understood, from his life experience as a Black man in the US and his time unjustly imprisoned for the death of an Oakland cop who tried to kill him, that even outside prison walls, he was still in prison, still not free.

Huey's understanding is one that we all need to take to heart, because as of September 19, 2008, everyone in the U.S. is officially inside one very large debtor's prison.

The settler colony peopled with indentured servants and imprisoned debtors from England, prepared to help steal the land of the indigenous people and oversee the labor of kidnapped and enslaved Africans, has come full circle. Thanks to the $1,000,000,000,000.00+ bailouts of AIG Insurance, of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and of the stinking mass of "toxic" mortgages left to rot when the housing bubble burst, the US populace has taken on in a few weeks indebtedness greater than the entire equity value of all the companies on the NY Stock Exchange. Allegedly, Bush and the Fed took this action to avert total economic collapse (although whether they will succeed is still an open question).

In fact, it is simply more of the same process of corporate welfare, of socializing losses and privatizing gains, that has gone on since the advent of capitalism. The polar ice-caps, alpine glaciers and arctic tundra are melting due the "externalizing" of the costs of industrial manufacture and agriculture, internal combustion vehicles and fossil-fuel power generation. In a parallel fashion, the economic meltdown was caused by the transformation of the US economy under 'globalization' into one run entirely for and by global financial capital, where debt is repackaged as equity, monetarized and securitized. The 'growth' sectors of the US economy were weapons, prisons, housing, health care for a rapidly aging population, and the financial sector. Everything else is imported or out-sourced.

In the criminal justice system, the cops get carte blanche to use violence, the prosecutors pile on the charges and the 'strikes' to get defendants to cop a plea, and the judges sign off on perjured testimony. In the economic system, loans that could never be paid back were wrapped up with slightly better loans to disguise the stench and pawned off as assets in 'derivative' markets. The brokers, the bankers and the Fed were given carte blanche to fleece the suckers. The technical name for one of these mechanisms is a "credit default swap," but the more realistic name is a "long con," (like in the movie 'The Sting,") or more simply, fraud. It simply exposes the truth that Pierre Proudhon voiced a couple of centuries ago: ***Property is theft.***

The bailouts became 'inevitable' (under capitalism) when Bush failed to put through the privatization of social security and the investment of the "social security trust fund" in the stock market. Without that fix, the Wall Street profit junkies created a housing bubble, and new financial 'products' with which to inflate it, to feed their habit.

This political system is incapable of socializing medical care. It is so impoverished of publicly financed infrastructure that major roadways collapse in Minneapolis. Passenger trains and freight trains in LA run in both directions on a single track, and Metrolink, the government agency running the trains couldn't afford simple safety equipment. Engineers were sweated, under contract, by a French low-bidder. The levees and homes are still not rebuilt in New Orleans three years later, and the poor Black people of Houston were left to sweat in the dark without help after Hurricane Ike. Yet remarkably, overnight, over a trillion dollars can be conjured up to bail out bankers and insurers who came face to face with the consequences of their own greed. In fact, the "bailouts" are not even real money, simply the assumption of new debts, the injection of new 'credit' into the system. Under the plan, the bankers and the Treasury will not even enable defaulting homeowners to escape foreclosure! And yet you are expected to pay for it!

Because unfortunately, debt no matter how it is dressed up is still debt. At some point, debt must be repaid. But since the debts always exceed the equity on which they are leveraged (check out by what multiple the principal plus total interest on even a "performing" mortgage exceeds the value of the property), at some point the roll-overs stop and the house of cards collapses. Then - miracle of miracles - some of the 'bad' debt is "written off" - it magically disappears as swiftly as it was created at the stroke of a banker's pen - and the rest of it is "paid off" through asset sales, the imposition of 'austerity' measures and other forms of genocidal exploitation. Having dished this out for years in the third world, the US is about to get a taste of its own medicine on the receiving end.

Unfortunately, too, even if a collapse took place, it would not be the demise of capitalism. This crisis is an opportunity for further concentration and centralization of capital, for Bank of America to pick up Merrill Lynch cheap and one or two investment banks to eat the others. Capitalism as an economic system requires the periodic extinction of capital and of productive capacity in order to function, just as much as it requires growth. In the absence of a sufficiently large war to fulfill the function of extinguishing a lot of capital and 'unprofitable' productive capacity, massive bankruptcies will have to do. But don't doubt that expanded war is somewhere over that time-horizon that Bush set for withdrawal from Iraq. As far as withdrawal from Iraq is concerned, you are of course aware that a horizon recedes as you approach it (or perhaps disappears completely like a desert mirage). After all, the US still has a base in Cuba, Guantanamo Bay, convenient for torture, over 110 years after the Spanish-American War. But as far as war is concerned, Iran and then China are looming right over that horizon. US economic and military planners have specifically targeted China for "destructive reduction in capacity" to overcome capitalism's fatal contradictions.

It is unlikely, of course, that China will sit still for this, particularly as Chinese "savings" (read, the super-exploitation of Chinese workers) is the main source of any 'liquidity' still left in the US financial markets. The Chinese lend us money so we can buy their manufactures; they are unlikely to do so in order to finance their own destruction. The US is going to start intensifying the exploitation and austerity inside its "own" borders in a big way, thanks to the recent bailouts, even if the Chinese don't start cashing in their chips, but even more so if they do. The fire sale of US natural and capital resources to European, Arab and Chinese capitalists, already underway, will accelerate. US capital is staking the house on its military.

The incredibly stupid George Bush declared, upon stealing the presidency for the second time, that he had earned political capital in the campaign, and he was going to spend it. Of course, capital is not supposed to be spent; it's supposed to be invested, thereby allegedly generating wealth. The dirty little secret is that capital does NOT generate capital. The only sources of capital are the expropriation of wealth from labor, from learning (mental labor), and from nature (particularly land and water). If people started crying when gasoline reached $5 a gallon, what will they do when water is $5 a quart? Hopefully, when John McCain's economic adviser complained that the US was "a nation of whiners," he got it wrong. But up to this point, whining is about all we hear. Barack Obama cannot and will not save you. Only we can save ourselves and the planet from the vampires riding our backs.

It's time to up the ante. Look to Bolivia, Venezuela, Mexico, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, India, where people are fighting desperately against the oligarchs and imperialism for their water, their land, and their very lives. Look even at China, where last year there were tens of thousands of illegal job actions and protests under conditions of great repression. In this nation-sized debtors' prison, this prison house of nations, look to the prisoners, particularly the political and politicized prisoners who are educating and transforming themselves as they seek justice and liberation. Take inspiration! Fight back! Only the principles of solidarity, of mutual aid, of communal resistance, self-determination and sustainable self-reliance can guide us through the coming dark days and hard times. It's time to shed our fear of the high and the mighty. All their wealth and power comes from the people and the planet they exploit and oppress. As we break our identification with our oppressors, we free ourselves, and we weaken them. Remember, if the working and oppressed people of the world unite, ***we have a world to win!***

If you'd like to comment, or for a text file of this editorial to forward, email:

antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com.

PDFs of this and previous issues are available at:

www.aratoronto.org

Confront Zionism - Divest from Israel

by the International Jewish Solidarity Network (IJSN)

International Jewish Solidarity Network will launch internationally on September 29, 2008 with the release of our Charter and Week of Action. Who is the International Jewish Solidarity Network? This a growing international network of Jews whose identities are not based on Jewish nationalism but on long histories of Jewish participation in liberation struggles from Eastern Europe and Iraq to Brooklyn and Mississippi. In this year of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the colonial State of Israel, we pledge to struggle against both the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the designation of Israel as a Jewish State. For the past two years, the network has been building an international network of anti-Zionist Jews to support existing and seed new Jewish anti-Zionist organizing in solidarity with Palestinian resistance. As with any other struggle for justice, working locally or even nationally is not enough.

The enemy we face is international, and what we can do is limited unless we find ways to work together across boundaries and regions. We are building an international voice that challenges Zionism and its claim to speak on behalf of Jews worldwide. As an international force, we can contribute to the movement to defeat US-backed Israeli imperialism. We do this through the following strategies: 1) solidarity with the struggle for Palestinian self-determination, 2) participation in broader anti-imperialist movements, and 3) the extrication of Jewish history, politics, community, and culture from Zionism. To read more about the network, go to www.ijsn.net.

From July 31 to August 3, 2008, in Berkeley, California, IJSN gathered anti-Zionist activists from continental Europe and the UK, India, Israel, the US and Canada. This first international organizing meeting was preparation for the public launch of the network over the 2008 Jewish high holidays. To read more about the meeting, go to www.ijsn.net/en/ijsn/first_international/M36. Since the international meeting we have engaged activists in Morocco and Argentina. The network seeks to expand its work to other parts of the US, Europe, Canada, South and West Asia, South America, South Africa, Australia, and Eastern Europe. If you are interested in building the work of the network in your city or region, please email us at ijsn@ijsn.net. We hope you will join us in the following activities moving forward.

On September 29, 2008, the network will put out its founding Charter with a clear anti-Zionist Jewish analysis and a call for a Week of Action. Over the next 2-3 years the network will organize tribunals that gather testimony in order to expose the tactics of and demand accountability from Zionist institutions and individuals. We will continue to engage in public education including forums, art exhibits, digital stories and workshops to the increase visibility of anti-Zionist narratives. Through supporting an anti-Zionist politic in the movements our members already participate in for racial, economic and gender justice, IJSN seeks to broaden support for the Palestinian struggle for justice.

Participation in existing Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) campaigns and other efforts to challenge Zionism: The network will not lead BDS efforts, but will encourage and support participation of its members in local, national and international campaigns.
Supporting joint struggle between Jews of Arab, Persian and Asian descent and Palestinians: IJSN activists in Israel are developing relationships of joint struggle against Zionism and Israeli apartheid.

We need your participation and partnership in launching and evolving the programs, logo and infrastructure of the network. To read about the network's previous activities - including the Study to Action program, Nakba at 60 organizing, and participation in the Palestinian Popular Conference, the Cairo Conference and Liberation Forum and the US Social Forum - please visit

www.ijsn.net/en/ijsn/C31/.

Contact Information: Email - ijsn@ijsn.net, Web - www.ijsn.net. Thank you for your contributions and support in building this network! ijsn.northamericaorganizing@gmail.com

Mohawk Grandmothers Beaten by Canadian Border Guards

by Brenda Norrell and Mohawk Nation News Staff

AKWESASNE -- Mohawk grandmothers Kahentinetha Horn and Katenies were taken into custody at the US/Canadian border on Saturday, June 14, 2008, when the two women were handcuffed and beaten by gangs of officers and border patrol agents. Eight officers beat Kahentinetha, 68-years-old, and five officers beat Katenies. Kahentinetha, publisher of Mohawk Nation News, suffered a heart attack and is in a Canadian hospital. Katenies was released from jail Monday evening and is in seclusion. Katenies, in a telephone interview on Tuesday afternoon, described the police attack on the women at the border. Katenies said the women were returning to Canada from a visit in the US, when they were stopped at the border. After the women showed their Haudenosaunee identification, they were told the IDs were not sufficient and they were detained. Then border agents did a background check.

Katenies was told that she had an earlier warrant. She had refused to recognize the authority of the Canadian government over her. In the earlier case she had stopped at a border check and was granted permission to pass, but border agents later claimed she was not cleared to pass. When she refused to recognize the authority of the Canadian government over her, a warrant resulted.

On Saturday, when Katenies refused to get out of the car, five huge Canadian officers and border agents jumped on her, dragged her out and threw her to the concrete, grinding her chin into the concrete.

"I went down so fast, they had knees in my back and kidneys. They were like a football team on me and they acted like they had no boundaries. They told me if I didn't cooperate, they would break my arms."
As officers attacked Katenies, Kahentinetha was on her cell phone calling family members and authorities for help. When Kahentinetha refused to hang up, eight officers attacked her. Katenies was placed in a cell and could hear the officers bring in Kahentinetha. Katenies could hear Kahentinetha yelling for them to loosen the handcuffs. By the screams of pain, Katenies said it sounded like the police were continuing to tighten the handcuffs as Kahentinetha cried out. Kahentinetha was handcuffed in a stress hold. The handcuffs cut off her circulation and she suffered a heart attack. A family member arrived at the same time and was able to get an ambulance immediately for Kahentinetha and she was transported to a hospital.

Katenies was transported to jail in Cornwall, where she remained in custody from Saturday until Monday evening. Katenies said the two women were not charged, but were told they would be charged at a later date. A member of the Mohawk Warrior Society said, "They did this because we have the greatest weapon, the truth, and what Kahentinetha writes is the truth. They are terrified of the truth. What they are trying to do is provoke the Mohawks." He said ultimately what they want is to provoke the Mohawks into a confrontation so the Mohawks who are resisting will be shot and killed. He said the Canadian government's plan was to assassinate Kahentinetha.

No steps have been taken to charge the Canada Border Services Agents CBSA who assaulted Katenies and Kahentinetha. Kahentinetha suffered a trauma induced heart attack. They tried to beat Katenies to a pulp. They act like this is "business as usual". The prosecutors have not done their duty. Because of this there has been no public investigation and the crime has been swept under the carpet. The two women have no money, but they have found a way that might make rogue crown agents accountable. They have filed an action in Canada 's Federal Court.

This does not mean they are accepting Canadian jurisdiction over themselves or the Haudenosaunee. Canadian agents have no right to abuse human rights or commit crimes against anyone, including those foreign to Canada. Canada has signed many agreements promising to uphold international human right standards. You don't have to be a Canadian citizen to sue Canada. Canada 's courts have an obligation to uphold the law. The two grandmothers filed their complaint in the Federal Court of Canada, under Section 48 of Canada 's Federal Court Act. [You can find the instructions for filing on the Federal Court website]. To get things going, you pay the filing fee and hand in 5 copies of your "Statement of Claim". The court clerk puts on a gold stamped seal and signs it to prove it has been filed. They serve it on the government the next day, and the crown has 30 days to answer. When you draft your claim, just put the facts down. Make sure you don't include any allegations that you can't prove. For example, you need a direct witness, documentary evidence or video tapes from CBSA cameras. If you miss a deadline, your case will be finished. The crown has to follow the law too, but it might try to ignore you. Don't forget to include a demand that federal officials follow the court's timelines.

September 19, 2008, is the crown's deadline for answering the two grandmothers. If the crown doesn't answer, Canada will lose by default. The court should then order Canada to meet the grandmothers' demands. --MNN Staff

www.mohawknationnews.com
katenies20@yahoo.com

Please Note. Legal actions have to be taken to protect our rights. We have no funds. If you can donate anything to our cause, it will be greatly appreciated. Donate to PayPal, www.mohawknationnews.com, or "MNN Mohawk Nation News", Box 991, Kahnawake [Quebec, Canada] J0L 1B0.

ANTI-OLYMPICS CONVERGENCE - FEB 2010

Communique by Olympics Resistance Network

The 2010 Winter Olympics is scheduled to take place on unceded indigenous land from February 12-28 2008. Far from being simply about 'sport', the history of the Olympics is one rooted in displacement, corporate greed, fascism, repression, and violence. Only the political and corporate elite - from real estate developers to security corporations - have anything to gain from the Olympics industry. The effects of the upcoming Winter Games have already manifested themselves with the expansion of sport tourism and resource extraction on indigenous lands. We have also seen increasing homelessness and gentrification of poor neighborhoods, increasing privatization of public services and union busting through imposed contracts and exploitative conditions especially for migrant labor. The national security apparatus is being fortified on the pretext of Olympics security; public spending and debt are ballooning; and the pace of environmental destruction has reach an unprecedented rate.

The Olympics Resistance Network is primarily based in Vancouver, Coast Salish Territories and exists as a space to coordinate anti-2010 Olympics efforts. In doing so, we act in solidarity with other communities across BC - particularly indigenous communities who have been defending their land against the onslaught of the Olympics since the bid itself. Our organizing is largely being done under the slogan of "No Olympics on Stolen Native Land." It is creating an opportunity for all anti-capitalist, indigenous, anti-poverty, labor, migrant justice, environmental justice, anti-war, and anti-colonial activists to come together to confront this two-week circus and the oppression it represents.

In addition to building ongoing educational and resistance efforts, we are organizing towards an anti-2010 convergence, currently called for between Feb 10th-15th. Building on the call by native warriors - particularly at the Indigenous Peoples Gathering in Sonora, Mexico in October 2007 - we will be working to coordinate the logistics to host all rebels converging on Vancouver, Whistler, and surrounding unceded native land during Feb. 2010. Over the next year, there will be more information provided regarding the convergence. In the meantime we encourage communities to fundraise, raise awareness, and organize towards the anti-2010 Olympics convergence. We hope to see you all in 2010 to demonstrate our indignation and resistance!

While we encourage people to continue their mobilizing and daily efforts rooted in their own local communities and local struggles, in the lead-up to the 2010 Games there will be several significant opportunities for coordinated and developed campaigns and actions. One such opportunity is the Nov 2009 - Feb 2010 Torch Relay "A Path of Northern Lights" across 100 cities. This Torch Relay will be the longest in-country relay in Olympic history- giving us the chance to make some anti-Olympic history! The relay route will be announced in the fall of 2008. Another upcoming opportunity is the Spirit Train, being launched on Sept. 21, 2008 by Canadian Pacific Railway (which has historically and currently played a critical role in the colonization and usurpation of indigenous lands) and VANOC (Vancouver Organizing Committee for 2010 Olympics). We are calling for and encouraging protests and actions to disrupt the 'Spirit Train' as it stop across cities across Canada in Sept. and Oct. 2008.

If you are interested in hosting an Anti-Olympics educational such as a film screening or panel with speakers, please contact us if you require support. We are able to provide educational materials, suggestions for speakers from diverse experiences, as well as resistance art, posters, comics, buttons, stickers and more! In particular if you are located along the West Coast and your group of friends, affinity group, youth group, organization, campus, union local, or community center is interested in learning about the history of the Olympics, the impacts of the Olympics, and Olympics resistance efforts please contact us! We are working on compiling contacts throughout Turtle Island in an effort to broaden our networks, disseminate information as well as updates, and to connect with as many communities as possible.

- Are you interested in actively organizing or coordinating anti-2010 Olympics resistance efforts, for example anti-Spirit Train actions? Please send us an email at olympicresistance@riseup.net with your location and affiliation and specify that you would like to be added to the cross-continental network list to coordinate anti-Olympics efforts and communications.
- Are you interested in regular announcements including news of interest and events? Please email us at olympicresistance@riseup.net and specify that you would like to be added to the ORN-announce list, a low traffic moderated list for weekly public announcements and updates. Email: olympicresistance@riseup.net Web: www.no2010.com

The Olympics Resistance Network Basis of Unity

Anti-Olympics organizing through the Olympic Resistance Network is largely being done under the primary slogan and understanding of "No Olympics on Stolen Native Land", although this is an opportunity for a large convergence of groups, issues, and sectors to come together. We look forward to working together across our diverse experiences and movements, while sharing a common understanding including an anti-colonial and anti-capitalist analysis; respect for diversity of tactics and strategies; an anti-oppression understanding and solidarity with those most directly affected; and organizational philosophy based on decentralization and autonomy within a coordinated and accountable structure. It is open to both delegates from groups as well as individuals interested in building anti-Olympics resistance by providing a space for existing groups to better share and coordinate their efforts as well as a space for this Network itself to take on its own activities including actions, educational efforts, creative resistance, awareness raising etc.

Open Letter To The KPFA Staff (Paid &Unpaid): IF THE SHOE FITS

by Kiilu Nyasha

I was outraged to hear that my "daughter," Nadra Foster, was attacked, brutalized, hogtied, and arrested at KPFA and charged with trespassing, resisting arrest, assaults on police, and other charges, with bail set at $81,000! Most of you have already heard the "sound track" of this vicious assault on Nadra, a single Black mother of two daughters, graduate of the Apprentice Program, and ten-year volunteer staffer at KPFA. Thanks to Media Alliance, Nadra's reduced bail was met ($500) and she was released in the wee hours of Saturday morning, August 24.

I spoke to her late Saturday morning and again on Sunday. Her description of what happened right there in the studio is simply incredible. First, it's disgusting that KPFA staff would call the police to solve a simple problem that could have been handled by other staff. Any KPFA staff that would even consider such a move in the present-day context of a very racist police state (about which Pacifica often reports) should never again refer to themselves as a 'progressive.' In fact, KPFA should drop that word from its vocabulary since its practice puts it in the same category as Fox or ABC -- an establishment radio network. Further proof lies in the grossly disproportionate and extremely long coverage of the fascist parties' conventions. But I digress.

Nadra told me that she was calling for a ride when two (White) police officers arrived in the small first-floor studio. When she calmly told them that the person who told her to leave the station had no authority to do so, one of the pigs "body-slammed" her, knocking her from a chair to the floor. She then got up; protesting the assault (verbally) and the other pig started beating her. At that point, Anita Johnson tried to some to her aid and was forced out of the room, at which point the two pigs called for backup. Shortly thereafter, six more pigs joined the fray and began beating Nadra again, kicking her all over her body and in her face. When she was handcuffed and asked if she wanted to be hogtied, she proclaimed, "I'm a human being!" They proceeded to beat her again and wrap her in this contraption that was like a full-length straight jacket (from her description) -- leaving her horizontally facing the ceiling as they carried her out of the station.

It was first reported that Nadra suffered a broken arm. I'm sure it felt like it, but X-rays showed her forearm was "severely sprained." Since falling goes with my medical territory, I can testify that sprains and bruises can feel like fractures. In fact, I spent six weeks in hospital (1998) unable to stand, bear weight, behind a bad bruise I thought at originally to be a fracture.

I specifically asked Nadra if she had cussed at the pigs (knowing from experience that I would have called them everything but a child of god). She said, "No." and I was amazed. But Nadra is not Kiilu; she has a very calm, easy disposition and is not given to cursing. All the more reason they had no business assaulting her; they had no provocation whatsoever.

Now, I know that JR was NOT in the station because he would have been in jail for resisting arrest, no doubt. (He already got arrested once before for aiding Rashida when she was attacked by police on assignment -- another story). But to all those who were present, I want to know how you could passively watch your colleague and my dear friend (who has been so good to me she's like a daughter), a mild-mannered, soft-spoken, dedicated person -- who else volunteers their time for ten years to serve their community? -- be beat down several times by a gang of pigs and do nothing? In short, I want to know why none of you was arrested for resisting arrest?

But then, there's no "all of us or none" kinda thing going on at KPFA, is there?

So since at least some of you are cowards and bullies (same thing), and some of you are just passively liberal, here's what you can do if you have any humanity at all:

REPARATIONS IMMEDIATELY OR POST-HASTE!

Just to be clear, reparations means to "repair the damage" that has already been done. In this case, collective responsibility by the staff at KPFA should be assumed for the harm done to our sister, Nadra H. Foster. Charges should be dropped and/or Nadra's defense should be undertaken (paid for) by KPFA. Medical expenses should be covered by KPFA's insurance or by whatever means is available for such. New bylaws should be established that preclude such a thing from ever reoccurring; esp. specific guidelines re conflict resolution and the banning of paid or unpaid staff. Police should never be called in to settle a non-violent dispute -- period. Nadra should be reinstated or un-banned as an unpaid staff member and given an official apology (hardly sufficient but the least thing to do to begin to repair the damage done to relationships and the social environment at KPFA.) Unpaid staff should receive the same consideration, respect, and accommodation that paid staff gets, however that is to be institutionalized. The most important reparation should involve the creation of a daily or weekly Black public affairs program devoted to issues affecting our local Bay Area Black Diaspora which includes indigenous-, Haitian-, Caribbean- and Latino-Africans, among others. The issue of police brutality and murder is ever present and escalating in predominately Black neighborhoods. Coverage of such incidents should be of paramount concern to the staff of Pacifica and KPFA. Had such a program been on KPFA airwaves, perhaps this incident could have been avoided.

As a former unpaid staff (1983 -- 1995), I refused to apply for a new program after being dissed in 1995. I left feeling like "I'm not going to volunteer to be disrespected!" I feel strongly that those who spend long hours producing, editing, board op-ing, hosting, etc., FOR FREE should get MORE RESPECT not less. Think about it. Moreover, if it were not for the majority staff that is unpaid, KPFA and nearly all listener-sponsored media would not survive.

Finally, if the management staff is unwilling or uncooperative with regard to making amends for this egregious incident, KPFA will surely lose standing and respect in the Black community -- and in all communities wherein human beings live. And it should lose funding as well. In any case, it would certainly demonstrate clearly its hypocrisy.

CKLN fires its News Director

by Kristin Schwartz

On Monday August 11 I was fired from my position as News Director of CKLN 88.1 FM in Toronto. I will be fighting this termination with the support of the staff union, CUPE Local 1281. It has been an honor and a privilege to be able to serve CKLN as News Director over the past years, and I have enjoyed working with the others who work there. I expect to have that opportunity again in the future. I am writing to seek your support.

Without warning and without cause, after 10 years of service to CKLN, and only six weeks after returning from a year-long parental leave, I was told that the current board of directors and I "do not see eye to eye." For that reason I was terminated, effective immediately. It is true that I "don't see eye to eye" with the current board as they have taken many steps that I disagree with. This includes interfering in news programming in ways that are totally unprecedented, and expelling 30 volunteers who have produced excellent, community-based, progressive programming at CKLN, without giving any reasons or opportunity to appeal. This course of action is shameful and demonstrates a complete lack of responsible leadership, in my view.

But "not seeing eye to eye" is not a lawful reason for firing employees. Thankfully, I now have some protection from this board's arbitrary behavior because our workplace is unionized with the largest labor union in the country, the Canadian Union of Public Employees. CUPE Local 1281 is fighting my termination on my behalf.

Please, take a few moments to write a letter in support of my work at CKLN. You can write to <stationmanager@ckln.fm> and <programdirector@ckln.fm>. You may want to highlight these points:

- The importance of CKLN's news department for broadcasting progressive perspectives on the critical issues of our time - war, poverty, violence, ecological devastation - and for providing access to the airwaves to poor and working people, racialized people, women, queer and trans people, youth, disAbled people, and others who are underrepresented or misrepresented in mainstream media
- The opportunities our news department has created for students, youth and community members to learn about broadcasting
- My work as a journalist and producer of programming which has aired across Canada and the United States
- My excellent record of supporting annual special programming for International Women's Day, LGBTQ Pride, and Prisoner Justice Day
- My contributions to the National Campus/Community Radio Association, and
- The outrageous violation of my rights as a unionized worker, in the midst of bargaining for a first contract.

You may send a copy to me at <kristin.schwartz2008@gmail.com>, our union at <office@cupe1281.ca>, and to Toby Whitfield, a member of CKLN's board of directors representing the Ryerson Students Union, at <vp.finance@rsuonline.ca>. The RSU is CKLN's largest funder. Thanks for your support.

Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education needs your help!

Postal and printing costs are up. Dozens of new prisoners ask to get free subs every month. Friends of ARA-LA/PART are either in prison, like General T.A.C.O./ Wolverine Shakur of the Black Riders Liberation Party, or facing prosecution for anti-fascist political activity. We had to postpone this issue almost a month because of a lack of sufficient funds and staffing. We may have to cut back our publication frequency next year to four quarterly issues from 6 bi-monthly issues.

What can you do?

We rely entirely on subscriptions and reader donations to publish. We've been coming out for 21 years, distributing thousands of copies free to prisoners, anti-racists and other concerned people without partisan subsidy, government funds or corporate grants. We depend entirely on you, the reader, to keep printing hard-hitting anti-racist, anti-colonialist analysis. (Prisoners, please donate what you can, or get someone outside to subscribe!) If you like what you're reading –

Don't delay -- Subscribe today: $18 individual/$28US institutional or international annual subscription.

Pay to: Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.

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Charter Schools and the Commodity of "Public" Education

By Jose Lara and Anthony Martin

The debate over charter schools and the privatization of education can be heard in teacher parking lots, the faculty cafeteria and most loudly in the union hall of the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA). The debate rages over what to do about the increasing number of charter schools in Los Angeles and what this means for the future of public education. There are those who believe that every new charter school brings us one step closer to merit-pay, school vouchers, and the end of public education as we know it. However, we must extend the narrow paradigm that equates the expansion of charter schools to the privatization of education, because not all charters are created equal and in fact, at times some charter schools are more "public" than public schools.

Towards a redefinition of "Public Schools"

Public school should not be defined so far as merely being government-funded education. Far too often the "public" does not include all community stakeholders that attend and live within the boundaries of the school. Instead the term "public" is really referring to private companies, consultants and lawyers who make a private killing off of public funding of education, by selling school districts so-called "accountability measures" that are really code words for culturally-biased standardized tests.

But these trends, which exploit and pervert the same system that should serve to emancipate children of the poor and working classes of society, do not stop here. Not only do these companies sell these tests to school districts, but they also profit from study guides, curriculum, teacher-training, and intervention programs that are supposed to help to improve test scores while forgetting why schools were created in the first place: so that children can learn. This is not the type of "public" education that we should be defending.

There are those who argue that what makes public schools "public" is that they accept all students, and that people get to vote for their school board members and thereby can hold the school board accountable. The first point is well taken; public schools do – theoretically -- accept all students; that is, if they have room for them on campus. If they do not, then they can bus them off out of their neighborhood to another school. Those students who are allowed to attend the nearby public school may not be there for long, especially if they are students of color. Currently, the push-out rates for students of color in the Los Angeles Unified School District are near 50%. For non-Asian males, the numbers are even higher. The reality is that "public" schools have failed to properly educate their students, especially students of color.

Having an elected school board does not make things much better either. Most school board members do not represent the best interests of those very students that they are responsible for. In fact, they often use the school board seat as a spring board for city council and other elected positions. Then Los Angeles Unified School Board member, Jose Huizar, for example, did nothing in 2005 when Santee High, the newest high school in LAUSD in over 30 years, opened its doors understaffed and without the proper resources. This led to a student riot and revolt on campus. Unfortunately, Jose Huizar was too busy running for Los Angeles City Council to worry about the problems at Santee (he won the city council seat by a large majority). Despite calls from parents and teachers, Jose Huizar did nothing to assist in ending the chaos occurring at Santee. The irony is that Mr. Huizar was all too eager to be front and center during the school's grand opening, when all the media cameras were present. The reality is that our election process does not hold the School Boards accountable. Candidates are supported by big campaign chests raised by corporate interests, the Mayor, and other forces. Moreover, many of the parents of children in LAUSD are not eligible to vote anyway because of their citizenship status.

We must redefine what is truly "public." By public, we mean essentially democratic schools that have local control; that it is the parents, teachers, and students who make the important decisions at the school. By public we refer to committed teachers who teach beyond the state standards in order to include cultural relevance. The unfortunate truth is that it is generally these same, committed teachers who end up being persecuted, fired, or blacklisted from the school district as a result of their direct, in-class advocacy for their students' best interests. This was the case last year with the firing of Ms. Karen Salazar from Jordan High School in Los Angeles for being "too afro-centric" in her teaching. Jordan High School is a historically predominantly African-American high school. If Jordan High School were truly a "public" school, then parents, students, and fellow teachers would have had their voices heard and Ms. Salazar would not have been fired. Unfortunately, this was not the case. Despite the community outcry, Ms. Salazar was removed from Jordan by LAUSD officials.

It is cases like the one at Jordan High that make one wonder, as an educator, as a community member, and as a concerned human being who contributes to such a so-called "public" school, exactly where the line is drawn between an emancipating education and a repressive institution and system. We don't need a "public" school that perpetuates the same trends that contribute to the same problems that haunt our society and those of our community's youth. These include the lack of representation of the interests of students, the lack of tools to advocate for oneself and one's community, and the general lack of consciousness that could serve to realize any type of truly public education, capable of promoting true social justice.

Charter schools as a point of scrutiny for public schools

This brings one as an educator to wonder about exactly where the point exists at which a school begins to fulfill its responsibilities to its students and to its community. It has been the case that within the realm of public schools, there have been an abundance of economic, political, and repressive motives that have not benefited students in the least. Therefore, in a consideration of the "charter-school movement," superficial criticisms have naturally abounded over the motives and whether they differ qualitatively from those that covertly drive public schools. Some charters may be driven by privatization and profit, (as are some 'public' schools), but others are not.

Academia Semillas del Pueblo, located in the community of El Sereno, just east of downtown L.A., for instance, is an example of a truly "public," democratic charter school that has local control over management, teachers, curriculum, schedule and budget. "Dedicated to providing urban children of immigrant native families an excellent education founded upon their own language, cultural values and global realities," Academia stands as a shining ray of light in the face of a deteriorating, dysfunctional public education system. Students learn multiple languages, including Mandarin and an indigenous language. Such a school provides not a threat to public education, but a challenge to so-called "public" schools to fulfill their educational mission.

First LAUSD, the second-largest school district in the nation, must understand that building long-overdue schools is only part of the solution, and that the priority is and always should be to serve the needs, wants and children of the community. Then perhaps the argument can be qualitatively made against charter schools in general. Until then, however, sight of the emancipatory goal of education must not be lost or diluted by shallow arguments for or against charter schools. Rather, the principle of educating youth must be reemphasized and perhaps even redefined. If charter schools are championing this principle, then so be it. Let them serve as a challenge to so-called public schools to do the same.

Jose Lara and Anthony Martin are both social justice educators who teach in the Los Angeles Unified School District and are members of the Association of Raza Educators (ARE), Los Angeles.

For more information about ARE, please visit

www.razaeducators.org

PUERTO RICO INDEPENDENCE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT (PRISM) CALL TO ACTION

This is a call to join and be part of the formation of the Puerto RicoIndependence Solidarity Movement (PRISM) in the US, a movement to re-group existing solidarity committees and organizations working with Puerto Rico, existing social movement and faith-based organizations that want to do work on Puerto Rico, and to educate those organizations, movements, networks, alliances etc., about the case of the colonial status of Puerto Rico. The launch date is July 25, 2008, a date associated with the US military invasion of Puerto Rico at Guanica Bay.

Mobilization dates: September 23, 2008, the goal is to organize and mobilize around the case of Puerto Rico as a colony of the US. This date Marks the 'Grito de Lares' issued by Don Emeterio Betances for the Independence of Puerto Rico. Organize protests, educational and/or cultural forum or activity related to educating the public and making people aware and supportive of the right to self determination by the people of Puerto Rico not the US Congress. July 25, 2009: Mark the one year active development of the PRISM and preparing for the mobilization on the United Nations supporting the right of Puerto Rico and demanding the end of the colonial status. September 23, 2009: The United Nations takes up the case of Puerto Rico and the move is to get it to the General Assembly of the United Nations and affirm the right to end colonialism. A mobilization is planned for the UN in New York City. Other actions are planned in other cities and states.

Historically, Puerto Rico was winning its battle for independence from the Spanish empire in 1898, gaining autonomy, when the US intervened through its war against Spain, forcing Spain into handing over its colonies to the United States, including Puerto Rico without the Puerto Ricans' agreement, Guam, the Philippines, and other territories. Puerto Rico's status under United States domination and control is that of a colony for past 110 years. Since 1953, the U.S. has held on to its control of Puerto Rico under a neo-colonial 'commonwealth' status. The colonial relationship of Puerto Rico to the United States under whatever name must end now. Puerto Rico has the right to self-determination and sovereignty as a people and as a nation. The United Nations affirmed this standing in numerous declarations seeking to end colonialism in the world. In the last 28 years, the independence movement in Puerto Rico has introduced numerous resolutions the UN demanding its inalienable right to independence. For the first time on June 8, 2008, it obtained a 'unanimous vote' by the Special Committee of Decolonization acknowledging the right of Puerto Rico to decide its own destiny.

For information and questions, contact:

Ruben Solis, grulla@swunion.org,
Southwest Workers Union c/o Sin Fronteras organizing project, San Antonio, TX,
210.378.5699 cell, 210.222.1704 office.

ALL OUT TO CLEVELAND, OH:
14th ANNUAL ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE!

By the Anti-Racist Action Conference Planners

During the weekend of October 11, the Anti-Racist Action Network will be holding its 14th annual conference in Cleveland, OH. All ARA chapters and other dedicated anti-fascists are invited to attend the 2008 conference. The gathering, taking place over 3 days, will include ARA's annual plenary, caucuses and discussion on current issues facing anti-fascists. Various workshops and several social events are also planned. Organizations will be tabling all weekend as well.

Please note that only Network affiliated chapters will have voting privileges during the plenary, and only vouched anti-fa may attend the plenary. If you are a part of a non-affiliated chapter or collective that wants to become affiliated with ARA-NET, please see the organizers as soon as you arrive. All friends of ARA are welcome and encouraged to participate in the rest of the weekend.

We are envisioning this conference as a gathering of all dedicated anti-fascists -whether in Anti-Racist Action or not - and would like to see this year's conference include as many people and new ideas as possible.

If you are new to anti-fascism, please come and learn from our experiences (and help us open our eyes to new possibilities);

If you are a former member, please come and get back in touch with us;

If you are an unaffiliated chapter - for whatever reason - come to the conference, meet other anti-racists and anti-fascists and take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about ARA-NET and what benefits there are to being a part of the Network.

Over the next few weeks, we will be confirming the details of the conference and will send out a registration form and more specific details. For now, please mark the date on your calendar and plan to join us in Cleveland for our annual conference!

Hope to see YOU there!

In solidarity,
The Anti-Racist Action Conference Planners
araconference@hush.com

SOUTHERN ONTARIO ARA
SHUTS DOWN FASCISTS IN LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA!

By Frank, SOARA

On Sunday, July 27th, anti-fascists ("antifa") came together from across Southern Ontario to confront and shut down an attempt by long time hate organizers to intimidate the participants of London's 2008 Pride Parade. Acting on information found posted on white supremacist websites, antifa in several cities were able to organize and produce the numbers despite minimal preparation time.

Close to 30 people gathered at Victoria Park at 11:30AM to discuss the plan for the day and create banners that would be used to block out the homophobic and anti-gay signs. As expected, harassment from the London Police Department was heavy from the get-go. Police used several tactics in an unsuccessful attempt to get information from and intimidate those gathered at Victoria Park (i.e. good cop / bad cop, isolating individuals and pressing for answers, intrusive photographs, etc). The group was approached by the cops repeatedly before they even left the park.

At around 12:15PM the 30-person strong crew left Victoria Park with several large banners, flags, and signs, heading down to pay the the fascists a visit at their meeting spot, the corner of Dundas and Colborne. Rumors had circulated earlier that upwards of 20 white supremacists would be present for the hate demonstration. However, in reality an unimpressive 5 people (including Randall Linton, Melissa Guille, Dave Ruud, and Louis Morin), primarily washed up Canadian Heritage Alliance (CHA) members, managed to drag their sorry selves out of bed early enough on a Sunday to wave around bristol board signs with sloppy slogans scrawled across in black sharpie.

During the initial confrontation a minor incident broke out that resulted in one ARA activist being arrested after a bonehead grabbed at a member of ARA. This police action was completely unwarranted and was a weak attempt to discourage those involved in the ARA demonstration. Our comrade was released from detention after we came together and arranged support for him.

Throughout the entirety of the parade, the fascists' signs were completely covered by ARA banners and flags, which was not exactly difficult considering that the homophobes were outnumbered by ARA 6 to 1. It did not take long for the members of the CHA and their supporters to become visibly frustrated and downright embarrassed that their day had been such an obviously miserable failure. On several occasions various boneheads found themselves completely alone and encircled by Rainbow banners, pro-Queer and ARA slogans as they scurried up and down the streets.

Towards the end of the parade the fascists called it quits after having several of their signs torn up, being publicly humiliated, and generally having a terrible Sunday out. They dispersed without incident, enjoying the police protection that they had greatly benefited from all day long.

No Homophobia! No Fascist Canada!
--SOUTHERN ONTARIO A.R.A.

A PROFOUND LOSS:
SAMMONO CHAU DROWNS

Sammono Chau was a dedicated Calgary Anti-fascist who accidentally drowned in a river in Guelph in early September. He was an incredibly important part of the Calgary radical community and a strong support for his friends and community. His dedication and strong beliefs to vegan SxE and anti-fascism was amazing. His funeral is on Tuesday and Wednesday in Montreal. The funeral will cost a lot of money and Sammono's parents are accepting and appreciating donations to cover this massive financial cost. Sammono's father Sambo says that any donations will be greatly appreciated. You can reach him (Sambo Meas Chau) at the following email: chaupream@hotmail.com. Sammono lives in all of us. --AntiFa-4-Life

This is Sammono's last picture at Montreal Impact soccer game for his birthday. Thanks. –Sambo

In Memoriam:
Spit Newborn & Dan Shersty
Tenth Anniversary of their Deaths

Lin "Spit" Newborn (above left) and Dan Shersty (above right) were good friends and committed anti-racist activists associated with Anti-Racist Action Las Vegas. Spit was an artist who worked on body designs and piercings, and a key figure and peace-maker in the Las Vegas counter-culture; Dan was an active-duty member of the US Air Force. Both were committed to ending racism and stopping the fascist violence and intimidation of young people in Las Vegas by nazi boneheads. Over the July 4th weekend in 1998, the two were duped into heading out into the desert on the out-skirts of town, where they were abducted, ambushed and killed by several nazi boneheads. Police, who were connected to some of the bone-heads involved as supposed "confidential informants," handled the case poorly, and mainstream civil rights and anti-nazi groups in LV pretended it was a case of gang rivalry. One of the killers was allowed to escape to Germany. Another was eventually caught and convicted as an accessory, and a third was found guilty of the killings and sentenced to death. Spit and Dan are martyrs of anti-racist resistance who will live forever in the struggle!

Bolivia:
Faced with fascist fury the answer is people's wrath in legitimate defense

By Social organizations of the city of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, September 16, 2008

The results at the polls, and once again the marvelous resistance of the Plan 3000 [neighborhood] against the fascist gangs, and the radical nature of the resolutions of the National Committee for Change (Conalcam), show that the right wing and the national bourgeoisie have only been allowed to survive. They represent an obstacle with the support of imperialism. The recall referendum and two years of economic and political sabotage show that the Bolivian landowners and businessmen are just a small minority in society.

We greet with extreme support and as a totally correct step, the Supreme Decree, which finally calls for a constitutional referendum. The government is starting to move in a firmer way, under the pressure of its social base, the mobilized workers and peasants, as shown in the statement of President Morales: that from this day onwards the real protagonist of any dialogue is the people.

We will also be called to vote on the question that is the real issue of this struggle: the ownership of the land. To reduce to 5000 or 10,000 hectares the maximum amount of land allowed to one single landowner represents a serious blow to the agro-financial structure of Bolivian capitalism and against the opposition based in the East, with the demand 'more land to distribute - less power to the oligarchy.' The measures of civil disobedience by the opposition and the civic committees in the East represent the defense of the existing structure of land ownership and exploitation. The new Constitution affects powerful interests, those of the cattle ranchers, the soybean barons and their imperialist masters and partners. Thus their resistance has been violent; they'll defend by all means their ownership of the land and the State.

The recall referendum on August 10 has been yet another show of strength and militancy of the Bolivian masses. It's shown that the workers and peasants of Bolivia are not prepared to lose what they won through struggle since the Water War. On the contrary, they still have great expectations of change.

The UN charter and in the codes and laws of the country, the right of legitimate defense is recognized as a legal right, when faced with attacks or abuses against people, institutions or countries. This applies when fundamental rights are violated, and the principle of proportionality should be respected (example: to a smack in the face, a proportional response would be a smack in the face). What is happening in Bolivia, particularly in Santa Cruz and other departments like Tarija, Beni and Pando, is really an insult, not only against the country, but against the whole world. The world witnesses with shock the images of groups of crazed fascists, paid and following the slogans of prefects and civic committees who oppose President Morales, attacking women, the elderly and massacring anybody who is in their way. And even worse, they act with complete impunity, in this land, which, according to the fascists, is theirs and nobody else's.

The police, as a body in charge of maintaining order and above all of safeguarding the lives of citizens, has been overrun and we still receive beatings and humiliations. For how much longer? We do not know. But when we see all these criminal acts, it is an outrage against human dignity, and we are referring not only to the attacks on women wearing traditional shirts (polleras), but attacks against anyone. This is an act against human dignity that we should all be ashamed of as Bolivians.

It is not enough to denounce these facts as if in the wail of the accomplice; this must come to an end, the people cannot take it any more. The people have no other option but to fight back with popular wrath in LEGITIMATE DEFENSE! We repeat it once again, not everything can be solved through votes, because they are not enough to achieve peace.

Therefore we agree to:

Denounce the business mafia of the Civic and Prefectural Committees, who would rather destroy the Bolivian state before losing their economic privileges, having appropriated for themselves large swaths of land and the natural resources of Bolivia.
Declare our absolute opposition to the fascist Civic-Prefectural actions, with looting and destruction of our public institutions. These actions have been carried out by groups financed by the right wing.
Appeal to the working class, the peasants, the street vendors, neighborhood juntas and the organized people in general to declare a national mobilization in defense of the unity of Bolivia and of our Bolivian brothers who are suffering aggressions and massacres in the East of Bolivia, on the part of the Civic Committees and the Prefects.
That the Bolivian people should come out in the streets against the danger of a coup, that has been prepared by the national and multinational companies together with military officers who are traitors to the country, and want to sell off our companies and natural resources again, so that the Bolivian state becomes indebted again.
That the Social Organizations of Bolivia must be the direct protagonists, by any means and resources necessary, in the solution to the problems of the country (the process of change should not be solved through clashes between small groups).
September 13, 2008, signed by
Santa Cruz Departmental Workers Union, Association of Neighborhood Juntas of Santa Cruz, Associations of Small Traders of the City of Santa Cruz Market, Organization Andrés Ibáñez (the Egalitarians), Organization Avanzada Che Guevara, Peoples' Youth Union of the Department of Santa Cruz, Social University Movement of the U.A.G.R.M., and 10 other community groups

Translated by In Defence of Marxism http://www.marxist.com/faced-with-fascist-fury-the-answer-is-people-s-wrath-in-legitimate-defence.htm

On the situation in Bolivia

by the FAG (Federação Anarquista Gaúcha(Brazil), Sept. 17, 2008

SOLIDARITY WITH THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE!
THE FUTURE OF LATIN AMERICA IS BEING PLAYED OUT IN BOLIVIA!

The current events in Bolivia leave the organized anarchists of the FAG with a sense of alarm. The problem is not the defense of a government with a nationalist profile and indigenous roots. It is the unconditional defense of the popular struggle of Latin American people. We have had and continue to keep organic contacts with Bolivian comrades since 2003, that is before the people's victory in the "Gas War", before the fall of Gonzalo Sanchez de Losada, before the fall of the president who succeeded him, Carlos Mesa, and long before the MAS' election victory.

Even then it was clear to the FAG that the political game in Bolivia was a tough one, without legal or institutional limits. The struggle to build Popular Power ("poder popular") has various aspects and at the moment the Evo Morales and Álvaro Garcia Linera government expresses the wishes of the people to win back definitive sovereignty over their ancestral land. Evo does not do just what he wants, and neither does he govern with the bankers, like the ex-factory worker Lula. Today, the country that defeated neo-liberalism dozens of times is facing its greatest challenge. The various ancestral peoples and nationalities of the old Viceroyalty of Upper Peru, the traditional Quechua, Aymara, Guaraní, Tupi societies and dozens of other ethnic groups, the living descendants in the melting pot of the cities, the heroic resistance of the miners, the cocaleros, of El Alto, of Cochabamba, the corner-to-corner street fighting in La Paz, all this has defeated the enemy several times. These people have made the organization of the social fabric, the practice of communal justice and grassroots alliances into the bulwark of the defeat of a system of rotten political parties,corrupted by the privatizations of the 1980s; with stones and dynamite they defeated the Army which operated under the control of the trafficker General Hugo Banzer; by promoting cooperative practices, they reject the poisonous presence of the oil transnationals, including the hateful sub-imperialist presence of Brazil.

The struggle is now an intense one, against the oligarchy of the so-called Half Moon which dominates the departments of Tarija, Beni, Pando and Chuquisaca and is controlled by the large landowners, soy farmers and drug traffickers in Santa Cruz, against the interests of the people. The Morales government is one of the targets, but these people are also aiming at destroying popular organization and the indigenous alternatives, the traditional, community forms of controlling social life, the re-appropriation by the people of the ownership of the subsoil and its natural resources. This struggle for autonomy is nothing more than the political will of an oligarchy allied with the transnationals, an attempt at a coup sponsored by the Department of State, the CIA and the DEA and financed with money stolen from the Bolivian people. The multitude of men and women who struggle for "autonomy" are mostly the employees, party members and supporters of these oligarchies. The situation of civil, anti-governmental disobedience in Bolivia at the moment is immense. On the left, the social protests are getting stronger and stronger and their demands are forcing Morales to do what a majority of the organized people propose. But on the right, the oligarchy that also emerged victorious from the revocative referendum of the national and regional governments is devoting every effort to chaos, the lockout and an economic blockade. They do not want to pay taxes to the government in La Paz. They want to keep for themselves all the wealth of the country, just as the banks suck our GDP and the squalid bureaucracy sucked the lifeblood of the Venezuelan PDVSA before the people gained victory in April 2002. Comrades, today in Bolivia there is a struggle against the oligarchy; it is a struggle which is part of the Latin American peoples' war against the chains of imperialism, masked under the macabre guise of globalization.

We must be clear about something, though. It must be stated that the FAG as an organization does not support the defense of any Statist or bourgeois government. Our support is as always for the process being carried on by the peoples who wish to defend their Bolivarian, Artigist heritage. It is for the political will of the social institutions and grassroots bodies who arduously combat the growing bureaucracy in Venezuela and the vacillation that is typical of charismatic leaders, but without the organicism and due obedience to the people, as is proper for true socialist militants. Lastly, our struggle is alongside the Ecuadorian CONAIE (*Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas de Ecuador*), the Venezuelan ANMCLA (*Associación Nacional Medios Comunitarios, Libres y Alternatives*), the heroic COR (*Central Obrero Regional*) in El Alto and the entire popular movement in Bolivia.

The political impasse of the Morales government will need to be resolved by going beyond the legal possibilities. There is a popular left that lies further to the left of the recalcitrant vice-president Linera and the usual bureaucrats, who oscillate between the Latin American universities and governments with a veneer of nationalism. To the left of the MAS are the ex-guerrillas of the Movimiento Pachakuti, there is the El Alto Coordinación Regional, there are the social institutions such as Community Justice, there is an enormous organized social fabric that has no intention of consigning the country and the ancestral lands to the heirs of Cortés and Pizarro.

Another Battle of Ayacucho, another 1809 Uprising

In 1809, the courage of the young Bolivians refused to recognize the demands of Charlotte Joaquina of Spain to govern the Viceroyalties. This decision marked the direction of the liberation of America in the heart of the Continent. The realistic response soon arrived when the governor of Potosí, loyal to the colonialists, occupied the rebel towns militarily. In 1824 in the Battle of Ayacucho, the reaction was defeated both politically and militarily. But political independence did not guarantee the liberation of the peoples or bring Popular Power, Self-Management and Political Federalism. Almost 190 years later, the same struggle is with us again. The right is fighting against the advancement of popular power, the transformation of the National State into a public space under the people's direct control, the dismantling of the bourgeois apparatus of social regulation. Today it is Bolivia's turn; in 2002 it was Venezuela's; three times over the past 11 years the people of Ecuador have rid themselves of a president; in December 2001 the Argentines defeated neo-liberalism and its plan to dismantle social life. Today the war of the Latin American peoples is marching towards their liberation in the Battle of the Bolivian Half Moon.

Defeat the oligarchy! Defeat the CIA, the DEA and the US Department of State!
May the Bolivian people go beyond the limits of national government and advance along the road to Popular Power!All solidarity to the Bolivian people!
The future of our brother country will be Quechua, Aymara, Guaraní, Tupi and popular or there will be no future!
Latin America will never surrender! Popular Power, Social Self-Management and Political Federalism!

Porto Alegre, 13 September 2008

Federação Anarquista Gaúcha (FAG) – Fórum do Anarquismo Organizado (FAO) – in strategic alliance with the Uruguayan Anarchist Federation (FAU)

Translation by FdCA-International Relations Office http://www.vermelhoenegro.org/fag

JERICHO AMNESTY MOVEMENT 10TH ANNIVERSARY MARCH
TO FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND P.O.W.s OCT. 10, 2008

by the Jericho Amnesty Movement

"One of the first steps we are going to become involved in as an Organization of Afro-American Unity will be to work with every leader and other organization in this country interested in a program designed to bring your and my problem before the United Nations ... We must take it out of the hands of the United States government."
– Malcolm X, Speech at Founding Rally of the OAAU, June 28, 1964

Political prisoners represent a breadth of liberation and progressive movements that have worked over the years to expand justice and freedom for all in this country. Some have been held for more than 35 years, representing the continuing repression against our movements in this country. It is in the interest of all liberation, progressive and justice-minded groups and individuals to oppose the imprisonment of political activists, which forms a major prong of repression against movements in this country.

On October 10, 2008 we are commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Jericho Amnesty Movement. We are organizing a National March to the United Nations here in New York City. This is a national effort to call attention to the existence of U.S.-held Political Prisoners & Prisoners of War. It is a national effort to redouble our efforts to build a stronger movement for the liberation of our freedom fighters. For more information, check www.thejerichomovement.com, write to Jericho, PO Box 1272, New York NY 10013, or email nationaljericho@gmail.com.

We reach out to you specifically to join in the planning and organization of this historic event. If you are interested in joining us or learning how you can help, please respond to this email at nycjericho@riseup.net OR call 718-365-4407.

FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS & PRISONERS OF WAR! --The Organizing Committees

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT U.N.

Friday, October 10, 2008 @ 12 Noon
Delegation to and rally outside the United Nations:

Moving Agitational Picket, 1st Ave. from 42nd to 47th St. Bring your banners, signs, noisemakers, drums, whistles, etc. Simultaneously, a delegation to the United Nations will be meeting inside the UN with international representatives regarding amnesty for political prisoners and POWs held by the U.S.

Demand Freedom for Our Political Prisoners and POWs! Friday evening concert to benefit the prisoners @ the Knitting Factory!

Saturday, October 11, 2008 @ 12 Noon, Rally at the Harlem State Office Building, 163 W. 125th Street (between Lenox & A.C. Powell). A march through Harlem begins at 1 p.m. A Closing Rally will be held at 3 p.m. at a site to be announced.

The Perils of Black Political Power

column written and copyright (c) 2008 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

As we are on the eve of what may be the most powerful Black achievement in U.S. history, it would be well to examine the history of Black political leadership in this country.

Most historical researchers look to the 1967 election of Carl Stokes, (1927-1996), as Mayor of Cleveland, Ohio as the emergence of black political power in major American cities. Many Blacks saw this as the beginning of an age of freedom for our people.

From the 1960's to now, we most certainly have been disabused of that notion.

For while black political leadership has surely been a source of pride, they have not been a source of black political power.

That's because as agents of the States, they must defend the interests of the State, even when this conflicts with the interests of their people.

For example, let's look at the experience of Mayor Stokes. Shortly after taking office, Stokes appointed former U.S. Army Lt.-General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. as his public safety director (a kind of super police chief). Gen. Davis, fresh from the rigors of Vietnam, ordered 30,000 rounds of hollow point (or dum-dum) bullets, items in violation of the laws of war.

The object of his ire? The Cleveland branch of the Black Panther Party, and a local office of the National Committee to Combat Fascism, a Panther support group.

In Aug. 1970, Gen. Davis resigned from the post, and criticized Mayor Stokes for not giving him sufficient support in his battle against radicals (like the Panthers). Stokes, the more politically adroit of the two, made Davis look bad for ordering ammo which violated the Geneva Conventions, but Stokes' personal papers revealed meetings between the two men, and their agreement on dum-dums as appropriate arms to be used against Panthers.

Just because he was a Black mayor, didn't mean he wasn't dedicated to destroying a Black organization. Indeed, in times of Black uprising and mass discontent, Black mayors seem the perfect instrument of repression, for they dispel charges of racism.

If Barack Obama wins the White House, it will be a considerable political achievement. It will be made possible only by the votes of millions of whites, most especially younger voters. This does not diminish such an achievement, it just sharpens the nature of it.

But Black faces in high places does not freedom make.

Power is far more than presence. It is the ability to meet people's political objectives of freedom, independence and material well-being.

We are as far from those objectives as we were in 1967.

--(c) '08 maj
[Source: Nissim-Sabat, Ryan, "Panthers Set Up Shop in Cleveland," p. 111; from Judson L. Jeffries, ed., COMRADES: Local History of the Black Panther Party (Blomington/ Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2007), pp. 89-144.]
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Mumia's options have increasingly narrowed as many of his appeals have been rejected despite compelling new evidence of his innocence. Although his death penalty was thrown out, he remains on death row as PA appeals that reversal and Mumia seeks redress for his unjust conviction in the courts. The time is now to act for justice.

The Power of Truth is Final -- Free Mumia! PLEASE CONTACT:

International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal
P.O. Box 19709
Philadelphia, PA 19143
Phone: 215-476-8812/ Fax: 215-476-6180, Web: www.freemumia.com

Send our brotha some LOVE and LIGHT at:

Mumia Abu-Jamal
AM 8335, SCI-Greene
175 Progress Drive
Waynesburg, PA 15370

WE WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM CAN *NOT* REST!!

[Check out Mumia's latest: WE WANT FREEDOM: A Life in the Black Panther Party, from South End Press (http://www.southendpress.org); 800-533-8478.]

ALLENSWORTH: AN AFRICAN TOWNSHIP IN CALIFORNIA

The book, ***Allensworth, the Freedom Colony; an African American Township in California***, by Mrs. Alice Royal with Scott Braley and Mickey Ellinger, tells the story of the town and its citizens - its conception, it's pioneers, the building of the park, the town of Allensworth today.There are dozens of historic photos from many personal archives. The book presents a little-known chapter of African American history.

Allensworth, 50 miles northwest of Bakersfield, was founded in 1908, and was the only town in California founded, funded, and governed by African Americans. Mrs. Royal was born in Allensworth in her grandparents' home in 1923, and has worked tirelessly to bring the history of Allensworth to public attention. In 1976, 240 acres of the old Allensworth downtown were declared a State Historic Park, and since then over 20 buildings have been rebuilt and furnished.

At the end of the 19th century, one of the forms of struggle for Black liberation was to build independent towns. Between 1877 and 1900, over 200,000 Blacks left the South to found more than a hundred autonomous communities. Allensworth was one of those towns, named for its founder, Allen Allensworth, whose own life was a journey from being enslaved to chaplain of the U.S. Army's (Black) 24th Infantry Regiment, retiring as a Lt. Colonel.

The town could have changed US history if its vision had been realized: African Americans managing their own affairs, farming, running independent businesses, providing housing for retired and active duty military people, shipping from the railroad depot at the edge of town, and building a trade college, a Tuskegee of the West. But within a few years the development company reneged on its agreement to provide water, the railroad station moved six miles north, and proposals to the State legislature to build the trade school were defeated. In 1914, Col. Allensworth was killed by two motorcyclists, in what was probably a racial attack.

The town held on for another decade, but the depression drove most of its residents into the cities. By the 1960's downtown Allensworth was abandoned or destroyed, and the rest of the town is now home to about a hundred families, mostly Latino farm laborers.

Heyday Books, the publisher, has priced it at $17.95, inexpensive for a full color book. You can order it from www.heydaybooks.com, for it at your local bookstore is better yet.-- Scott Braley

We Cannot Allow any President to Shift Focus to Afghanistan
a Better World Rests on Our Ability to Assert Ourselves as Architects of Our Future

by Camilo Mejia, Board Chair of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW)

During the final presidential debate at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., members of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) requested that moderator Bob Schieffer allow them to ask each candidate a question. The question for Sen. McCain was about veterans' benefits since, being a war veteran and former POW himself, he should have a better voting record when it comes to veterans' well-being. The question for Sen. Obama, who voted against the invasion of Iraq and called the invasion illegal at one point, focused on whether he would be willing to support soldiers who wanted to become conscientious objectors.

Not only was IVAW not able to ask the questions, but we were attacked by the Hempstead mounted police. Ten of our members, along with some civilian activists, were arrested, and two of our members were injured, one suffering a broken cheekbone. Neither candidate mentioned either Iraq or Afghanistan during the entire 90-minute debate.

The promise of a better nation, one whose resources are dedicated to improving social conditions and where wealth is distributed to lift up the working ranks of society, rings hollow when military veterans can't ask a question without being violently repressed. All this is to say that regardless of who gets elected, the work of building a better world remains in the hands of the people and rests on our ability to assert ourselves as the true architects of our future.

Obama is regarded as the antiwar candidate for having voted against the invasion of Iraq and for promising a progressive withdrawal of troops from that country, yet both he and McCain have spoken about the "success" of the troop "surge" in Iraq. But to seriously address the situation in Iraq and the eventual withdrawal from it would require Obama to address the 180,000 private contractors in Iraq, the permanent military bases, and the diplomatic and corporate complex from which the U.S. government intends to run the country. And of course, the "success" of the surge fails to recognize that more than half of the population of Iraq is either displaced, in need of emergency aid or dead.

The "global war on terror," the name given by the past and now future administrations to justify profit-driven invasions and occupations, needs a new centerpiece.

The Iraq war has become too unpopular to continue justifying the U.S. imperial agenda. We cannot allow any president to shift focus to Afghanistan in order to continue American warmongering. President-elect Obama has promised to continue pouring troops into that country and to see the war spill into Pakistan if he deems it necessary.

The antiwar movement has to realize the need to continue the struggle for peace and justice. That struggle starts at home where, in opposing costly and illegal wars of aggression, we wage battles against poverty, racism and exploitation of the working class by the ruling elite. Only by building a true grassroots movement to combat a corporate-controlled government will we be able to create a world where peace, justice and social equality can prevail. This is the work of the people, not of the politicians, regardless of who is president. It has been going on; it continues; it can never stop, not for one minute.

Camilo Mejia was the first active-duty soldier to publicly refuse redeployment to Iraq and is the chair of the board of Iraq Veterans Against the War.
Send friends and relatives GI Special, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Call: 917.677.8057 or email <thomasfbarton@earthlink.net>. Editor's note: ***Turning the Tide*** is also free to active duty members of the military. Send name, ID number and APO address to; antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

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TURNING THE TIDE

When the Prison Gates Open, the True Dragon Will Fly Out

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The Prison Issue

The degree of humanity in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.-Dostoevsky

Obama's Election:
Lessons for Defeating White Supremacy and Rebuilding Revolutionary Resistance

by
Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)

The election of Barack Obama has been greeted in a variety of ways: elation and relief (tempered by fear of a racist backlash or assassination attempt) by supporters, particularly US Africans; predictions of enhanced recruitment opportunity by organized white supremacists; doomsday predictions by conservatives. On the left there have been "exposes" of Obama's Zionism, militarism and dismissal of the particular needs of Black people or the working class. A group of DC anarchists has called for a disruption of his inaugural.

But any analysis needs to start from this reality: masses of people in the US feel they have helped make and change history by electing Obama. His victory is indeed historic in many ways. It required the largest voter turnout ever, and the highest percentage of registered voters to vote in decades. Obama gained a clear majority, the highest percentage by a Democrat since FDR except for Johnson's landslide after the JFK assassination. He ran the most expensive campaign in history. He is the first "bi-racial" (called Black or African-American) president-elect, and incidentally the first child of an immigrant, the first Hawaiian-born, one of the youngest, and by far the least "embedded," president. Moreover, his was the first victory by a self-proclaimed 'anti-war' candidate in the midst of a war. For the first time, Obama broke through the white supremacist 'fix' embedded in the electoral college system, in which white bloc voting in the South leveraged the electoral weight of out-numbered and/or disenfranchised Blacks to control the electoral college. Although Obama lost the white vote overall because of the strength of white support for McCain in the South, he ran at least as well as any white Democrat in the past four decades, and with the upsurge in the Black vote and the new demographic of Mexicano/indigenous voters disproportionately in his favor, he broke through to victory.

But Obama's victory hardly signals that we are a "post-racial" society, as is evidenced by the self-contradictory self-congratulations of those who proclaim that "by electing the first Black president" we have shown that we are "color-blind." Exit polls showed that about a fifth of 'white' voters acknowledged that "race" was a significant factor. Interestingly, of those, 30% voted **for** Obama. One explanation of this is the fact that Obama's race made his intellect acceptable. US voters would never have elected a 'white' candidate as obviously intelligent as Obama. Yet they accepted and understood that a 'Black' candidate would have to be twice as smart, twice as cool, as any 'white' to have a chance to succeed.

Paradoxically but perhaps most essentially, Obama's election is also a manifestation of the extent of the radical left's weakness, irrelevance and inability to communicate. Over the past eight years of Bush misrule, what effective strategies or serious ability to develop a countervailing force or consciousness has the left or the anarchist movement manifested? In that vacuum, people made a judgment that Obama represented the best hope for the kind of change that could be achieved through electoral means. This was not merely because he was 'Black,' but because he was intelligent, calm, organized, and an effective and reassuring campaigner. McCain's charges of 'inexperience' didn't stick because Obama was attractive exactly because he was a relative outsider not deeply corrupted by long tenure in Washington, DC or in office. His mild centrist critique of the Iraq war made 'sense' in a context in which the anti-war movement had proven incapable of making a dent or marshaling an extra-parliamentary opposition and resistance to the war. Within the Democratic Party spectrum -- and the anti-war movement has been tailing the Democrats for years -- he was the electable 'opponent' of the Iraq war.

To imagine that a proclamation of opposition to Obama's inauguration as a capitalist and statist will do anything to overcome the left's weakness, irrelevance and inability to communicate -- in fact, that it will do anything other than deepen and intensify those failures -- is the height of arrogance. I have a different take on what we have to do or learn in response to Obama's victory. It starts with the perspective that the greatest on-going weakness of the left strategically and politically is a refusal to recognize the nature of this society as an Empire based on white-supremacist settler colonialism. Related to that is our greatest tactical flaw, an inability to practice authentic self-criticism, through which we learn from our errors and defeats in order to eventually overcome them and win. Our failure to do that has engendered a deep defeatism in masses of people -- manifest as accommodation to Empire and unwillingness to struggle against or even make a sharp break with the system.

One thing this election has demonstrated is how far into the past the revolutionary militance of the civil rights and Black power movements and the mass anti-imperialist opposition to the Vietnam War and domestic colonialism have receded. McCain's inability to make the Bill Ayers smear stick to Obama was because not only Obama but most of the electorate was no older than 8, or perhaps not yet born, when Ayers was an armed-propaganda radical. That period of revolutionary optimism, when the Black Panther Party, the Black Liberation Army or the WUO were the tip of the iceberg of a massive upwelling of rebelliousness and armed resistance, is now ancient history.

(Speaking of white privilege and class, Obama never would have associated with ex-BLA members, nor would any have been on the board of an Annenberg charity.)

No amount of posturing could "Recreate 68" (or even 2000) in Denver for the DNC or in DC for the inaugural. 47% of high school seniors in the US today were registered to vote in time for the election, and I suspect an overwhelming majority of them cast their first ballots. They were born while the first George Bush was president! Who better to speak to them than Anti-Racist Action, which has historically been an attractor of high schoolers? Yet ARA's current ability to do outreach, education, agitation and organizing in high schools (or prisons, factories, community colleges or the military) is miniscule. The DC call relates that anarchists opposed and disrupted the last two inaugurations, and therefore should do the same again. This flawed reasoning lacks a material analysis of the consciousness of masses of people in relation to the electoral process and the presidency. Bush's two stolen victories undermined the authenticity and legitimacy of the electoral process and of the imperial presidency. For his first inaugural, he was anointed president by the Supreme Court after having lost the popular vote. For his second, he was plagued by an unpopular war and evidence of vote flipping and vote suppression. Protesters and disrupters were speaking for millions when we denounced the inaugurals and the presidency, and our message fell on receptive ears.

The current situation is far different, and blaming it on the voters is another example of the left's lack of self-criticism and ability to grow. Obama's victory signals a new lease on life for the presidency, electoral politics and the two-party system. Obama won by a clear majority, in which voter suppression was a negligible factor and in which all minor parties together barely hit 1% of the vote, including McKinney, Nader, Barr and Baldwin combined. His inauguration, even apart from the historicity of his "Blackness," is being welcomed by the overwhelming majority of the US population as proof of the "mystery and majesty" of electoral democracy. In that context, a disruption wouldn't express the unease of the general population in a radical and uncompromising way, but would be taken as an alienating slap in the face. It wouldn't be seen as a call to a higher form of direct democracy, but as a rejection of the popular will expressed through a peaceful, honest and democratic election and transfer of power.

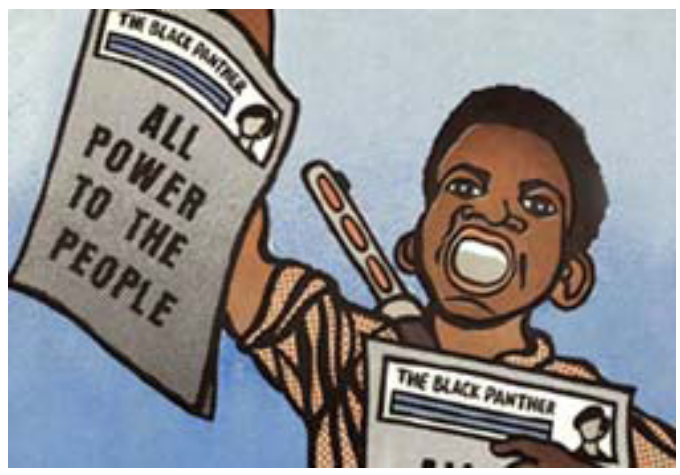
Now is the time for a sober reassessment of how to grapple with these new realities. Obama did not merely collect millions of dollars from hundreds of thousands of people -- he established a relationship with them. He organized effectively tens of thousands of volunteers, and turned out tens of millions of people to vote. Why has the left or the anarchist movement been incapable of inspiring, stimulating or organizing anywhere near that level of support, involvement, voluntarism or participation? How can we start to do so?

Obama accurately read the demographic, technological and ideological changes that are taking place in the U.S. and effectively offered himself and his campaign as a vehicle for implementing or realizing some of the aspirations those changes have generated. Obama seized on the opportunity of the latest and deepest capitalist economic crisis to develop a compelling narrative of how a lack of regulation, a lack of attention to the 'middle class,' and an arrogant unilateralism in 'foreign policy' weakened the economy, national security and the fiscal stability of the state. Neither the statist left nor the anarchists are anywhere close to having the intellectual, political or organizational capacity to challenge that narrative or that definition of "change."

Unless and until we engage in a thoroughgoing self-criticism and re-orientation towards an anti-colonialist politics of decolonization as the basis of an effective anti-capitalism, we will be playing with ourselves on the sidelines of history.

We need to put forward and undertake effective organizing strategies, not merely demands, for self-determined direct action against economic and environmental devastation, mass incarceration, militarism, occupation and anti-immigrant hysteria. We need to participate in building self-reliant communities of resistance.

It is only oppressed and exploited people who can make revolution, and save the planet by saving ourselves. Go to the 25% of 'homeowners' who owe more on their mortgage than their home is worth and unite them with the homeless. Go to the 30% of "War on Terror" veterans who report no earned wage income, and who have massive unemployment rates, and help unite them with GI resisters, with teens resisting recruitment, or with millions of prisoners and their families. Then we can begin to make some history of our own.



Close the Control Units

by
Bonnie Kerness, AFSC Prison Watch Project

Excerpts from remarks in June 2008 at the AFSC StopMAX Conference

In the mid ’80s I received a letter from Ojore Lutalo who had just been placed in the Management Control Unit at Trenton State Prison. He asked what a control unit was, why he was in there and how long he would have to stay. We began hearing from people throughout the country saying that they were prisoners being held in extended isolation for political reasons. We also heard from jailhouse lawyers, Islamic militants and prisoner activists – many of whom found themselves locked down in 24/7 solitary confinement.
The AFSC began contacting people inside and outside the prisons to see who was interested in working specifically on control unit isolation issues, and in 1994 (after eight years of organizing) we hosted the formation of the National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons. This was done with the help of Coalition to End the Marion Lockdown, Komboa Ervin (one of the Marion Brothers), Corey Weinstein of California Prison Focus, Alejandro Molina from the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, students from Oberlin College, the Anarchist Black Cross, the United Church of Christ, Yaki Owusu of Spear and Shield, the input of the women held in small group isolation at Lexington KY, and many others.

The history of the National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons really began with the movements of the ’60s and ’70s. My generation believed each of us was free to dissent politically. People acted out this belief in a number of ways. Native peoples contributed to the formation of the American Indian Movement dedicated to self determination; Puerto Ricans joined the movement to free the island from US colonialism; white students formed SDS and other groups, while others worked in the southern Civil Rights movements. This was also a time that the New Afrikan Independence Movement reasserted itself, the Black Panther Party for Self Defense was formed, and there was a distinct rise in the prisoner’s rights movement.

The government, in response to this massive outcry against inequities and for national liberation, utilized an FBI Counter Intelligence Program called COINTELPRO, which had as its objective the crippling of the Black Panther Party and other radical forces. TV news had graphic pictures of state troopers, police, FBI, and the National Guard killing our peers. I saw on the evening news the bullet holes left as police fired into Panther Fred Hampton’s sleeping body. Young people protesting the Vietnam War were killed by the National Guard on the Jackson and Kent State campuses. Civil rights workers were killed with impunity. We felt as if there was no opportunity to stop mourning because each day another activist was dead. These killings and other acts of oppression led to underground formations such as the Black Liberation Army and the Weather Underground.

Over the years that this COINTELPRO was carried out, many of those young people who weren’t murdered were put in prisons across the country. Some, now in their 60s and 70s, are still there. Those directives are still being carried out, only now we have Homeland Security monitoring what it calls “radical prisoners”. The US denied that there were people being held for political reasons. But there was no way to work with prisoners without hearing repeatedly of the existence of such people – including individuals who clearly fit the United Nations definition of political prisoners and prisoners of war – and the particular treatment they endured once in prison. As early as 1978, Andrew Young, US Ambassador to the United Nations, was quoted in newspapers saying, “There are hundreds, perhaps thousands of people I would describe as political prisoners” in US prisons.

Across the nation, we saw enhanced use of sensory deprivation and isolation units for such people, and it was this growing “special treatment” which we began monitoring. At the time, Ralph Arons, a former warden at Marion, was quoted at a congressional hearing as saying, “The purpose of the Marion Control Unit is to control revolutionary attitudes in the prison system and in society at large.”

For those of us who have been in the struggle for decades, the deliberate use of long term sensory deprivation is haunting. People that we’ve known, worked with and loved have been, and some are still being held in this manner. The names – Ojore Lutalo; Sundiata Acoli, for whom the Management Control Unit in NJ was built in 1975; Assata Shakur, who was held for over five years in isolation. Albert Nuh Washington, who died in prison; Geronimo Pratt and Dhoruba Bin Wahad, who were eventually exonerated and released; Marshall Eddie Conway, Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Mumia Abu Jamal; Leonard Peltier, David Gilbert, Marilyn Buck, Sekou Odinga, Ray Luc Levasseur, Kazi Toure, Masai Ehehosi; Oscar Lopez Rivera, Alejandrina Torres, Dylcia Pagan, Bashir Hameed, Standing Deer, Lorenzo Kom’boa Ervin; Richard Williams, Tom Manning, Merle Africa and the rest of the MOVE Africas, Susan Rosenberg, Laura Whitehorn, Linda Evans, Sylvia Baraldini, Imam Jamil Al-Amin - these names and dozens of others haunt the spaces of every control unit, SHU, DDU, ad seg unit and special housing unit in the country. No matter what name they are given, their purpose is the same as it is in Abu Ghraib or Guantanamo – the breaking of minds. For every name I’ve read, there are a thousand more.

For people of my generation, this work is done with a lifetime passion and an understanding that the work is not risk free. We’ve made a promise to those dead and alive to abolish these torture chambers. People throughout the world are beginning to understand what the prisoners have been saying to us for decades about the oppressive tactics of the US government. The department of corrections is more than a set of institutions, it is a state of mind. It is that state of mind which has expanded the use of isolation, the use of torture and the Counter Intelligence Program, as part of Homeland Security, against activists, both inside and outside the walls. Ojore Lutalo, the man who first contacted us in 1986, was released from the control unit via litigation in 2002 after 16 years in isolation. In 2004, he let us know that he had been placed back into the Management Control unit with no charges pending or any explanation. When I called the Department of Corrections, it took many conversations before I was bluntly told that this was upon the order of Homeland Security, that he is one of a number of prisoners across the country who they have targeted in this way.

The latest progression of control units are called “security threat group management units”. This is particularly egregious because it is the government which gets to define what a “security threat group” is. According to a national survey done by the Department of Justice in 1997, the Departments of Corrections of Minnesota and Oregon named all Asians as gangs, which Minnesota further compounds by adding all Native Americans. The State of NJ DOC lists the Black Cat Collective as a gang. The Black Cat Collective is my free foster son along with two friends who put on Afro-Centric cultural programs in libraries. Because my own background stems from the Civil Rights Era, I am very mindful of who is considered a “security threat” to this country and how they are treated.

Prison gang policies occur within the context of larger society and the wider criminal justice system, and the growth of security threat group management units are part of the larger policy agenda regarding US prisons. One of the standards that the federal government sets in order for states to receive prison construction subsidies is to mandate the building of supermax prisons or security threat group management units.

One of the things that makes this such an exciting time to re-new our efforts through Stopmax, is that we now have the growing understanding of the validity of United Nations international law. The Convention Against Torture, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, The UN Convention on Political and Civil Rights and other international and regional treaties help give us a new set of legal, educational and organizing tools for social change.

Turning the Tide:
Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education needs your help!

Postal and printing costs are up. Dozens of new prisoners ask to get free subs every month. Friends of ARA-LA/PART are either in prison, like General T.A.C.O./Wolverine Shakur of the Black Riders Liberation Party, or facing prosecution for anti-fascist political activity. We had to postpone this issue again because of a lack of sufficient funds and staffing. Our last appeal resulted in only about a dozen new subscriptions and donations. As things stand, we will have to revert to quarterly publication next year, down from six issues a year.

What can you do?

We rely entirely on subscriptions and reader donations to publish. We’ve been coming out for 21 years, distributing thousands of copies free to prisoners, anti-racists and other concerned people without partisan subsidy, government funds or corporate grants. We depend entirely on you, the reader, to keep printing hard-hitting anti-racist, anti-colonialist analysis. If you like what you’re reading –
Don’t delay -- Subscribe today: $18 individual/$28 institutional or international annual subscription (for 4-6 issues)
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EDITORIAL OVERVIEW ON THIS ISSUE:

This issue of ***Turning the Tide***, in the aftermath of the elections, is devoted primarily to commentaries, writings and analyses by prisoners. If we are looking for the seeds of revolutionary resistance, behind the prison walls is one place we can find them. Many prisoners of all nationalities are engaged in a process of personal transformation, political education and strategic organizing behind the walls while seeking to rebuild contact and communication through the walls. ***TTT*** hopes to contribute in some small way to that process, and to begin to identify other sectors of our communities open a radical personal and social transformation in the coming months. We invite your feedback, both to ARA-LA/PART and to the individual prisoners whose work is included in this issue.

New Afrikan Community Emergency Response Network Manifesto:

Power to the People Who Don't Fear Freedom!

by
Abdul Olugbala Shakur

When did we find out that this government did not give a damn about New Afrikans or poor people? Before or after Hurricane Katrina? We as New Afrikan freedom fighters and activists knew this before Hurricane Katrina. We knew that institutionalized racism was alive and well. So I ask, how can we as vanguards blame an oppressive government or white men, when we had failed to act? We knew our people were not adequately prepared for a natural disaster or crisis, but we did nothing to prepare them. I don't excuse myself; I should not have waited 12 years, to reintroduce this proposal. So I must also apologize to our people for failing to act on their behalf. Being in solitary confinement for the past 25 years is no excuse. By no means am I excusing the government from responsibility, but as a vanguard, I don't expect the enemy of New Afrikan self-determination to save us or to do for us what we should be doing for ourselves.

The need for this manifesto is no longer an option; it's now a necessity. Hurricane Katrina exposed our vulnerability in the worst way. It took the needless loss of lives for us to finally come to the realization of the need for our communities to prepare ourselves. We must now act in our own best interest and develop and prepare our own emergency response services and network.

The key to surviving a natural disaster, or at least minimizing fatalities, is organization and preparedness. The purpose of this discussion paper is to facilitate the dialogue; identify the areas that need to be addressed and analyzed as it pertains to preparation; and provide an example of the functional infrastructure that must be established to guarantee an effective emergency response. The dialogue must be designed towards developing a working blueprint for a New Afrikan Community Emergency Response Network.

To avoid bureaucratic stagnation, each state should have its own network. This network will be responsible for preparing every New Afrikan community in their state for a crisis or a natural disaster. Members of this network will be elected by our communities. We will develop a ballot system that would allow our people to vote. Only those who live in the New Afrikan community will be eligible to sit on the board. They must be well-known community activists with a history of serving our community to community will have the power to remove any board member, and they are dissatisfied with. The NACERN will work with other community family emergency services, but will not be subordinate to them, nor will we be dictated to or serve as a government puppet.

Every city with a New Afrikan community will be eligible to form an emergency response committee. The same rules will apply to ERC members: they will be unknown, community activists, with no affiliation to the government or law enforcement. All committees will be responsible to the state network, and they will be required to file a monthly report. The status report will consist of all relevant information, from their failures or successes, as well as their financial reports.

Emergency Survey Unit

The ESU will be activated before during and after a natural disaster. It will monitor all local dams, levees, etc. the ESU will also search for structural damage in all local housing projects, apartments, rules, bridges, freeways, overpasses, etc. The ESU will conduct monthly tests of all drinking water, especially during and after a crisis. The ESU will also identify areas that are prone to floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, snow and/or wildfires. This unit will file a report every 90 days detailing their findings.

Emergency Mobile Clinics.

During Katrina, many are people were unable to reach a hospital or receive medical attention. As a result, many of our people suffered or died. The EMC will be fully equipped and capable of performing certain emergency procedures. The EMCs will be dispatched to the hardest hit areas, especially those in rural areas.

Emergency Ambulance Services

We will convert vans and boats into fully equipped ambulances. These will be active all year round, but during a crisis or natural disaster, their priority would be to reach the most vulnerable and to transport the injured to emergency medical stations or emergency mobile clinics. There will also be emergency medical staff assistants, thoroughly trained in first aid and other medical treatment, at least 3 on every block. They will be responsible for identifying the most vulnerable on their block, such as the handicapped and elders, and for developing a database of all those on their block with some type of health problem. We will develop a computer program to secure this data against theft.

Emergency Evacuation Network

The EEN will develop an effective evacuation plan and emergency manual for the community and distribute copies, conduct evacuation drills two or three times a year, and coordinate the evacuation of the community in an actual crisis or emergency. It will establish a working relationship with the school district that would allow the use of school buses for evacuation.

Emergency Expropriation Unit

We don't agree with the government position on "looting" during a crisis or natural disaster. We also disagree with looting as an effective means to obtain sustenance for survival during such a situation. We have a more effective method to achieve this objective. During a crisis, the EEU will dispatch a unit to all the affected grocery, hardware and clothing stores along with a unit of the emergency security network to secure the businesses while the EEU expropriates the necessary supplies, such as necessary food, water or other beverages; clothing, blankets and towels; matches, flashlights and flares; paper and plastic plates, utensil and bags; grills, fire extinguishers, generators, radios, tools, etc. An emergency logistics management network will coordinate the distribution of these supplies to those in need. The EEU will inventory each item that was expropriated by the EEU and provide copies to the businesses affected. We believe this will minimize unnecessary looting.

The Emergency Security Network will have an armed division and an unarmed division. It will be a legitimate community-based security network, not cops, informers or puppets for law enforcement. It will be a community-controlled network activated during emergencies and natural disasters. Unfortunately, there was some truth to reports that at least some of our young people did victimize our women, children, elders and the community during the Katrina disaster. We will dispatch armed security units to all relief centers and evacuee shelters and ensure that young thugs will not be allowed to victimize our people. The unarmed division will help the emergency evacuation network evacuate and secure our communities.

Emergency Information Center

Accurate information facilitates a community's endeavors to prepare itself and respond appropriately to a natural disaster or other emergency. One of our primary weaknesses is a lack of necessary information or the ability to disseminate it to our people. The EIC will develop a survival manual that will cover the distinctive characteristics calling for a particular response for each potential crisis or disaster. It will also produce a directory listing the addresses, phone numbers, emails and web-sites for all our emergency response services. Many families were separated and children lost during Katrina. The EIC will develop a New Afrikan family central database. Each family in the database will have their own personal emergency instructions based on their particular circumstances, with their own personal, secure, password-protected access…

This proposal embodies the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

Unity: It will unite us around a common cause.

Self-determination: It is all about saving ourselves and doing for ourselves.

Collective work and responsibility: This will bring us together functionally as a collective body in the service of the community.

Cooperative economics: This about building our own enterprises and pooling our money to finance those projects and initiatives.

Purpose: This plan would help create a social climate where each member of the community can consciously contribute to rebuilding the community.

Creativity: Developing out New Afrikan Emergency Response Network will test and enhance our creativity.

Faith: This project would help us to believe in ourselves again.

My people, as New Afrikan freedom fighters, we don't have the option to blame the government. To be your vanguard and warrior, we must be your first-line responders. I offer this manifesto as my contribution. Why do I say New Afrikan? One of the methods employed by the slave-master was to place slaves from different villages, towns and nations together on plantations to try to prevent unity and strip our ancestors of their cultural identity, including their language, religion and social norms. That reduced the risk of organized slave rebellions; they also hoped to create a mind-set vulnerable to being indoctrinated into a slave mentality. What was not foreseen by the architects of this genocidal system was that it was the catalyst for the development of a New Afrikan. This nation was synthesized from those different sources, not the same as those who came from Africa, but indigenous to the new social-political reality, culturally evolving in a new world. We as a people are descendants of those New Afrikans. I wrote this mandate from that perspective, a contribution to a future in which we New Afrikans are powerful, independent, and masters of our destiny!

Excerpted by the editor from a manifesto by Abdul Olugbala Shakur, s/n James Harvey, #C-48884/ D-4-112 (SHU) Pelican Bay State Prison, PO Box 7500, Crescent City CA 95532.

Editor replies:

This excerpt from a much longer, densely hand-written document sent in by brother Shakur speaks volumes to the enormous gap in communication between those inside and outside the walls, and between the hopes and desires of oppressed people and our current capacity to realize them. The institutions and procedures outlined in this plan are far beyond the current or near-future capacities of our movements to implement. The pressing question is, how do we close the gap? How do we integrate prisoners into a grounded dialogue about where we are, where we need to be to win freedom, and how we are going to get there? Our theorizing and strategizing inside and out must be based on accurate grasp of material reality and the historical moment, a concrete analysis of concrete conditions and class and natiional relationships. What sectors can start to move and serve as a motor to turn over the engine of mass action? We invite response.

Racist Resistance to Prisoner Unity

By Brennan MacLean

Racism in prison. I'm sure you've heard of it. It sucks. I hate it. I hate it probably just as fiercely as those convicts hate each other. I'm an anti-racist agitator disgusted by the present prison predicament. Just imagine seeing thousands of people divided into fascist factions constantly fighting one another. Constantly proving Darwin's 'survival of the fittest' theory every day in a bloody war-zone. It's relentless. So I was greatly relieved one day last summer to hear that the California Department of Corrections was preparing to obey a mediation agreement from the Supreme Court to desegregate cells. I viewed this as a perfect opportunity for us as convicts -- maybe, just maybe-- to begin breaking some of these foolish barriers.

So in the past several months, I've embarked on an intense anti-racist mission, in which I've met massive resistance. Not only from the imprisoned class, but from these officials as well. The latter see integration as an inherently counter-productive strategy; for, when it is implemented it has the power to unite, thus ruining their divide and conquer plan. The former see it as a threat to their pride, their safety, and their supposed supremacy.

The resistance is comprehensive, but still altogether illogical. It keeps people enslaved and oppressed, hateful and bitter. I believe that the racist resistance on behalf of these fascist officials and oppressed inmates, therefore, needs to be met with anti-racist direct confrontation, agitation, and education in order for it to extinguish and conceivably become extinct.

For starters, I've found confrontation to be an essential component for the simple fact that if I don't outwardly oppose racism, how am I supposed to fight it? I can't. I have to face it and question it. At times this has proved to be risky, if not down right dangerous. Whatever the case, I still face the challenge. For example, I've recently joined forces with a group of soldiers with similar aims. Known as Modesto Anarcho, they've become one with me in this struggle.

About two months ago, I got the green light from them to go forward with plans to post a flyer promoting their 'distro' right here in the combat zone. Excited, I drew it up and then posted it in our dayroom on our bulletin board. I then waited and watched. Within hours, as I stood behind my cell door, half believing my eyes half-denying them, I witnessed an individual - not a cop, but an inmate, dismantling the flyer! I quickly responded to this outrageous violation by calling the said individual to my door so that I could ask him just exactly who the hell he thought he was. As he approached my door, flyer in hand, I recognized him as the building clerk. Upon arrival, I questioned his intentions. I demanded an answer in which he responded by saying that the flyer was "garbage." "Why is it garbage," my celly yelled, "because you don't agree with it?"

I began to explain to him that the flyer was posted on 'our' bulletin board and not 'his.' That I had a right to post any goddamn thing I wanted to post as long as it didn't infringe on anybody else's right to post.
All said and done, he then reacted by handing me back the flyer before walking away speechless. Minutes later my direct confrontation obviously took hold because he returned requesting the flyer. He went back, surprisingly, and posted it back up like a good boy.

On the flipside, my approach in administering direct confrontation to these officials has come to be expressed in the most blatant of ways: cell me up with another race, period! The brass have recently started interviewing inmates, as they did me, as part of the integration process. Here they ask whether the inmate would be willing to cell up with someone of another race. In my interview, I was not only willing but wanted to. And let me be clear by saying that I cannot urge the imprisoned class enough to volunteer as well. The SHU awaits you if you don't. That equates to more time; more oppression; more playing into their hands. Besides, I confronted and spoke to a cop about this issue recently and this is what he had to say: "[T]he more integration there is, the more power [inmates] will have. The less we'll be able to pit y'all against each other, the less we'll be able to control." They're not looking forward to integration and that's precisely why we should be.

As my second strategy, I've chosen to agitate for a less violent and hateful environment. It's challenging, as I'm sure you can imagine, because I'm surrounded by racist resistance on all sides. The imprisoned class consists of various sets and gangs. These include but are not limited to, Neo-Nazi skinheads, Nortenos and Surenos (among the Mexicanos), Bloods and Crips, et al who all believe to some degree in racial division.

However, hate groups are not limited to just prison. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are 888 hate groups operating currently in this country. In the State of California 21 skinhead groups have been identified. Out of these 21 groups the majority of members are currently behind bars. On several occasions I have been targeted and invited to prospect for these horribly ignorant and distraught individuals. They tried to agitate, manipulate, provoke and lure me and other young recruits into their ranks. For me, though, I always knew that my whiteness wasn't something to exalt or exploit, especially if it meant oppressing and hating others in the process. So instead of joining them, I took their strategy of agitating and began using it to my advantage.

Now, I run around talking excitedly and earnestly about anti-racist principles. When I find myself in a group of other whites and racist speech takes center stage I attempt to stir up the conversation by offering alternatives to racism, like harmony. I ask things like, "Why don't we go over there and play ball with them blacks?" Or, "Let's go over and offer those Nortenos a cup of joe and see if they want to play a game of chess." To date, I've gotten written up for mutual combat six times over it. It's no puzzle that my ideals are highly controversial, if not downright 'treasonous' in the eyes of many.

I've noticed though, that by just putting myself on the line for the sake of instilling different perspectives and inspiring public discussion, I've definitely ignited a spark. There have been several people thus far that have abandoned their resistance, if just for a second, in order to listen and sometimes embrace what I have to say. In cases like this, where my agitation takes hold, I pounce on the opportunity to offer zines and other literature to the homies who just might stray away from the racist trap.

Which brings me to my third and final strategy of education. I've found this to be one of, if not the most potent weapon to use when attempting to combat racist resistance. Let me begin by saying that there are many insurrectionary distros out there who have played such a pivotal role in contributing to my mission and also in helping me to analyze the world in which we live. Without them I truly believe I'd still be stuck in an ignorant rut. For instance, I used to feel horrible and ever so guilty about being prison. The state dubbed me a violent felon; a dangerous desperado; a piece of shit junkie. I knew these things weren't true, but still I did not have the knowledge to articulate myself or my actions for what they really were. It wasn't until I started creating contacts with collectives like So. Chicago, Shoelacetown ABC, and Modesto Anarcho that it dawned on me, "wait, my actions and ideals are actually collectively congruent and a part of something much bigger."

As a result, I stopped judging myself by society's standards. I woke the fuck up and started to critique and understand my incarceration, my role in society, and most importantly myself. I found out that these collectives all run a free literature program for prisoners. Which means that convicts are able to educate themselves with 'zines and other literature that promote things like freedom, mutual aid, collective cooperation, autonomy, and of course anti-racist ideals. I believe that we owe it to ourselves to seek out the truth. And once we find ourselves on the path of truth, we owe it to everyone around us to spread the knowledge, collectively, that we have learned. I myself with the aid of the MAC* have been able to effectively and successfully distribute anti-racist literature into the hands of the most needy. The ones that are about to join that skinhead clique, or Mexican set. The ones who are fed up with existing inside the confining walls of their resistance. The ones who are wanting to break the barriers not for a whiter and brighter world but for a more harmonious one. One without divisions and disunity. Enslavement and fear.

In closing, this mission is no easy feat. The odds are stacked against me. The direct confrontation calls for constant conflict. Agitation entails intense conversations that, more times than not, end in consequential combat. Education in the form of 'zines and other literature that literally opposes everything prison thrives on is dangerous to distribute. But that's okay; for, I know that my only safety is in danger.
Send literature and letters to: Brennan MacLean #V83025 D5-221, PO Box 5007, Calipatria, CA 92233
http://geocities.com/anarcho209, PO Box 3027 Modesto

Black Struggle at Central State University, Ohio

May you and those close to you in the struggle be very well in all respects. I am blessed to be yet alive and doing my part to wage war against the enemies of a sane humane and non-sociopathic human family, especially in the United States. Those whom we stand and act against are in flagrant and unapologetic violation of the guarantees of the U.S. Constitution and are clearly therefore, certified domestic terrorists, as well as traitors to the people such as those who, for example, have mobilized against all racists and ethnic bigots, with or without badges, black robes, etc..

I've been rereading, volume 21, number three, June 2008. It was very informative, even though the continuing madness is disturbing. But I recognize that just as that madness had a beginning, then it also has an end that can be achieved, insha'llah. Your article was very insightful and well written.

I need your relevant support of a cause that deserves not to be forgotten, just as what occurred at Kent State is not forgotten. I am talking about a form of remembrance for all of those courageous students out of Central State University, the student black power organization - Unity for Unity - that found ourselves under armed attack by both the Ohio State troopers, and then the Ohio National Guard. This was an all campus, life-and-death attack upon an all-black State University that boasted. Excellent academic credentials in the face of conspiracies to close the University, destroy its majority black student enrollment, and merge it with Cedarville College. This happened in 1969, I believe.

After the blatant attack, it was discovered that US covert intelligence agencies had operatives and agent provocateurs on campus as students and some as staff members. The University was surrounded by armed forces with M-16s at the ready, aimed at the faces of unarmed male and female students, who, after being shot at repeatedly, rounded up after physically defeating the right club tear-gas spraying State troopers, predominantly white.

Central State was closed down and students escorted off the campus by FBI agents, who came onto campus to cover up the many students seriously injured or killed in the vicious attack upon the unarmed innocent students of not only Central State University, but also church side or Wilberforce University, that is adjacent Central State. Also, the FBI went in with cameras, searching each and every campus room for any evidence of black power slogans, while the hierarchy of Unity for Unity faced pending federal charges. SNCC came to legally represent the many students arrested. Even though other black universities were attacked by state and government forces, I believe that what occurred at Central State University was the most blatant and was really covered up. It needs to be brought out into the open, and the courageous students who risked their lives to defend the lives of others should be recognized. I am thinking that those students can be located on the Internet, and eventually brought together after so many years have passed in silence with the truth buried.

Please ponder over the proposed reunion of the survivors of that racist attack upon the peaceful sanctity of Central State University, which too many in the US know nothing about. It should be an example of what we should never allow to happen again. And the murders that occurred should be investigated after being covered up along.

In conclusion, when students were finally allowed to return to the campus, new students with new drugs that had never been there before were all over the campus at very low prices (i.e. heroin, Angel dust, acid, etc.). You know the pattern.

I can only hope I can survive long enough to get out, long enough to once again see my old comrades in arms from Central State University survivors of the late 60s. You would have had to be there to believe how totally unprepared, unorganized students responded to the threat of armed and overwhelming forces (Ohio state troopers) for hours of impromptu hand-to-hand combat, eventually routing the troopers. This led to the inserting of the National Guard, who came in shooting at us without any questions asked, shooting at anything Black that moved.

In April 2008, I was put in the hole for helping other prisoners with legal work. The officials stole all of my legal, religious, and personal property in April, and never returned it when I left for Lexington from the hole in late June. Be well, and keep me on your contact list. Even as you assist me, I passed that assistance on to others.

Jeffrey Rasheed Hill, #40971133 FDC Miami. Pre-Trial D
P.O. Box 019120, Miami Florida 33101-9120

Writing Through the Walls:
PRISONER LETTERS TO TURNING THE TIDE

To Whom It May Concern:

I hope you are doing okay as this missive arrives. I've had the privilege to read a few issues of your newspaper. I am indigent, but would appreciate receiving my own copy. I am enclosing some essays that I hope you will use in the future.

I also remember reading about prisoners wanting penpal sites. There is one I am involved with called: ForumforUnderstandingPrisons.com. The lady who runs it is named Peggy Swan. You can also write a pen pal ad to her at PO Box 285, Richland Center WI 53581. There is no limit on length. I also have my won case on the site:
http://freemarvinwilson.blogspot.com.

I am innocent and hopefully you can pass the word around for help. I wish you the best in the struggle!

I am Adam Due aka Marvin D Wilson, GBCI #297343,
PO Box 19033, Green Bay WI 54307

Dear Editor:

I am a subscriber to your newspaper. I want to give a little insight as to what is going on in the Northern California prison. I am being refused my civil rights, after having been granted and approved a civil action and claim for holding the past my parole date by almost 5 years now. I was placed in solitary illegal confinement after I was attacked by Corrections Officers at Folsom State Prison on August 21, 2004. I was sent to court, with no attorney and set up for an assault on me while I was defending myself in court. I was proven innocent, acting as a pro-se attorney, while I was and still am under shock therapy by Dr. Hitchcock at Atascadero. I need your help. They refuse to parole me. I am past parole since June 2004.

Sincerely,
Rodney Deshone Fodd a.k.a. Mark Page #J-65357,
PO Box 1050, Soledad CA 93960-1050.

Dear *Turning the Tide*,

This letter is a plea for any help you to be able to offer. I am a PA lifer down for 27 plus years for murder are truly did not commit. I recently had a webpage put together, and I'm trying to generate publicity for my page as well as for my case. I fought for over 14 years to acquire DNA testing of evidence used to obtain a conviction. Once I receive even a partial of the DNA testing are requested, the results gave me a 100% exoneration. As the same DA is still in office – he's now the top DA – he's fighting me tooth and nail in my quest to prove my innocence. I have tried about 20 different innocence projects, colleges and law schools, but they all seem to fear PA courts. They have some of the most corrupt courts in the USA. The famous Barry Scheck looked in my case in 1995-96, only to tell me it didn't involve DNA. But of course it didn't, this was a 1982 case. It took me a few more years, but I finally managed to get it. Now the courts are trying to claim I am time barred, without regard to the question of my innocence of the crime.

So as my hair gets grayer, my body gets older, my family is dying off. I'm not begging for any help your organization may be able to offer. I don't know much about the Internet, but my sister has a friend who has put together a page for me on My Space. If there is anything your organization may be able to do for me-Emily and I would truly be indebted to you. If you need any more info please feel free to write me.

Your paper has really opened my eyes to a lot of the crazy antics of the legal system in the US, some of which I find myself caught up in. In advance, I think you've released giving me your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Michael White Wolf Dean #AS 1919,
175 Progress Drive, Waynesburg, PA 15370.

Editor replies:

We are printing these letters in the hopes that someone may be of assistance to Messrs. Wilson, Fodd or Dean. *Turning the Tide* is a small project carried out by less than a handful of people. The extent of the service we can provide to prisoners is the continuing publication of the newspaper itself, and the development of the analyses and propaganda it contains.

We are not in a position to provide legal services, books, legal referrals, websites, or other resources. We are, quite honestly, taxed to the limit simply to produce and mail the paper every two months. Postal costs, printing costs and other demands on our limited time continue to increase. In the circumstances, we apologize to any prisoner readers who feel slighted by a lack of personal attention or by our inability to provide more extensive services.

Perhaps in the future, if the anti-colonialist, anti-statist perspective behind *Turning the Tide* gains more adherents, we would be in a position to help meet the enormous need to combat the massive injustices suffered by those incarcerated in ever-increasing numbers in the United States.

Any volunteers interested in helping to respond on a more personal basis, or with concrete legal or material resources, to the steady flow of correspondence *that Turning the Tide* receives on a weekly basis, are more than welcome to write us. Write to ARA-LA, P.O. Box 1055, Culver City, CA 90232, e-mail us at antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com, or call us at 310-495-0299. There are literally hundreds of prisoners who would appreciate any response you could give them. Here are some more letters:

Dear ARA,

I just transferred to this prison. Please forward me copies of your new paper at the address above. Thank you!
PS I have been incarcerated since 1988, 20 years. And four years ago, I learned how to read. Since I learned how to read I have fallen in love with Black history. It has helped to open my eyes. I want to thank you, because your newspaper has played a major role in my eye opening experience as well. I understand why the inner cities are flooded with drugs and guns. Now I understand his motives and its intent, as well as its aim.

Please keep up the good work. It opened my eyes, maybe it will open another's. I will do my part inside of here.

Love you, sincerely, absolutely, --Kevin.

Greetings,

I'm writing to ask you please cancel my subscription to *Turning the Tide*. Please remove me from your mailing list. I've been moved to a new unit where receiving your publication is bringing me too much negative attention from guards and prisoners. So, please cancel my subscription and remove me from your mailing list at this time. Thank you. – James

Dear ARA,

You're not going to believe this! It's happening to me and I can hardly believe it. A little over a month ago, I wrote to you requesting *Turning the Tide* and any other information about your organization that you can send me. O.K. So, when you sent the information to me, the prison mailroom stopped the package and sent me a rejection form. Now get this. The stated reason for rejecting this mail was the part of the prison male policy restricting prisoners from receiving racist or racially inflammatory materials. The absurdity of their faulty reasoning prompted me to request an administrative hearing on the matter. Within days of my request, they were telling me to "pack up." I was transferred to one of the worst rat holes in the Siberia of the Michigan gulag. After several weeks of runaround, I finally got fed up and filed a grievance on the whole sordid affair. Now it's a matter of waiting for resolution or retaliation. Wish me luck. Sincerely, Kenneth.

Dear ARA,

Thank you for sending the June 2008 issue of *Turning the Tide*. It was very informative. I am sending my correct mailing address, because the authorities have moved me. Keep up the good work out there and I'll try to keep it real in here. Racism is something that has always pissed me off! Even more so now, being white in prison, every day I am faced with racial conflict. Prisons breed racial conflict, segregation, and bring capitalists' dreams a little closer to reality. Fuck racism! Fuck the system!

In solidarity, A.D.C. 82

What it do, *Turning the Tide*-

This very political prisoner can only afford to pray to Yahweh (goddess of love) that she continue to keep your family in her most tender loving, and keep her hands on all of your brothers and sisters. You dig? Of course you do. I've been M.I.A. off of Mother Earth since 1986. Now I'm in the bowels of the wickedest beast known to man. I did get a copy of your paper for the very first time. And I loved what I saw and read. Would it be possible to get on your mailing list as fast as humanly possible (AFAHP)? Shout that I need that!
In revolutionary love, Timothy 1 Luv, 2 Black, 2 Strong!

Greetings,

I'm writing to ask if I could please be added to your mailing list for your anti-racist newsletter. If so, thank you.

P.S. These western PA Reagan Democrats are vicious to the 5th power. They take racism to anew level! This prison sits about 20 minutes from West Virginia and the way they act, you would think this was Mississippi or Alabama in the 1950s. When they get Blacks or Hispanic brothers and sisters inside of these prisons, they treat us like dirt. Things are real bad here in PA. They have 27 prisons up and running now, with three more being built! Thirty state prisons – this is crazy! I'm mad. I'm locked down 23 hours a day Monday to Friday and 24 on Saturday and Sunday, and I needed to vent! Thank you for hearing me out! – Barry

Editor comments:

This is a sampling of dozens of letters we get from prisoners every month. *Turning the Tide* now goes free to over 1200 prisoners around the U.S. Increasingly, prisons are finding excuses to deny prisoners the right to receive the paper, rejecting it on the basis of "racism" when it clearly and expressly anti-racist. That's because really, the prisons use and foment racism to divide and control the prisoners, and carry out a colonial mission of mass incarceration of nationally-oppressed people, such as Africans (Blacks), Mexicano and indigenous people, and Asians. In addition, because of the huge growth in imprisonment, even though Europeans are a small minority of prisoners, there are more so-called "white" people in prison today than there were prisoners of all ethnicities two decades ago. Luckily, a growing anti-racist consciousness is taking root among prisoners, led by conscious liberationists, but it is in constant struggle against the racial, class and national oppression propagated by the institution within which they are confined.

Another Definition of a Soldier

By: S. K. S. Tabansi a.k.a. Alfonso P. Pew, #BT-7263, Box A, Bellefonte PA, 16823-0820

We the generation born in the 60s and 70s find ourselves at a crucial crossroads of defining our own reality. But we are the immediate results of wars waged between the black liberation movement and the fascist snake apparatus, we have yet to adapt the ideological continuity of the black power movement as a whole.

As we are often referred to as a Hip-Hop generation, we continue to abandon the revolutionary role that music and culture can facilitate as an institution for nation building beyond business. Primarily, the youth are being influenced by surrogates masquerading as "soldiers." One of the most general descriptions in the video entertainment business and popular media is effeminate males so called thug images, projecting commercial roles that are inconsistent with our realities as a people.

We as a people seeking independent nationhood, require real soldiers. A productive picture of a soldier for the self-determination of the people. What we have thus far are sabotaging elements in our struggle. That is, individuals utilizing the thug title without the slightest idea of its origins in warfare, preferably the art of strangulation. The English word ***thug*** came into usage in modern times, stemming back to India in a cult known as the Thugee. The Thugee flourished under the British Empire rule and the colonization of India. The Thugee can be designated as an outlaw band of professional assassins in rebellion against the state.

By this definition, we can see that the direction of rap's so-called thugs, and personalities such as Soldier Boy, has nothing to do with war, which is the real business of a real soldier. Those of us now in our 30s and 40s need to revitalize the black power movement among the youth. We must no longer allow the infiltration of noncombatants into our homes and lives.

We must convey the stories of soldiers such as Kuwasi Balagoon, and others like Assata Shakur and Safiya Bukhari. The brothers and sisters mentioned here, to name a few are the types of soldiers not aired in the news or in the educational curriculum of the enemy.

These are the types of soldiers that not only liberated themselves but helped liberate others. Without a revolutionary dialogue on the ideological makeup of soldiers, there can be no progress in us liberating ourselves. When it comes to the subjects of independence, autonomy, self rule, anarchy, class, race, imperialism and more, we need a correct perspective on who and what is a soldier, as well as is not.

This is a 21st-century crisis we must redefine and rebuild on. The black entertainment television, national publications, newspapers and magazines are threats to our security as an oppressed nation seeking to liberate ourselves.

Instead, it would inspire revolutionary morale to have youth cadre begin reading the well recommended book *Kuwasi Balagoon: A Soldier's Story: Writings by a New Afrikan Anarchist*. Published by Kersplebedeb.

Pan African Association of America, 2325 Laconia Street, San Diego, CA 92114
www.paaaoline.org

The Mosaic, 4722 Baltimore Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143
www.the_Mosaic@Verizon.net

Three Essays on the 'N' Word

I have studied the word "nigger" extensively, and found that slaveholders denominated African people as such to suggest that they were scum, worse than pigs being slaughtered, worse than the outhouses they relieve themselves in. The slaveholders called us niggers because a nigger was somewhat less than human – an ape, a porch monkey, a coon, a person who deserved to be raped, murdered, mutilated, neglected, or subject to a long list of other atrocities.

To the African man and woman, "nigger" meant being the white man's property, being raped indiscriminately, mutilated for pleasure, murdered at random, demonized freedom. To paraphrase what brother Born Allah wrote in his piece "Sanctioned by Statute," about the words negro and necro, the British and Americans, through their enslavement and dehumanization process reduced the Alkebulan or African mindset, culture, religion, and way of life to nothingness. We were violently dissuaded from maintaining our ways of transmitting religious and cultural knowledge to future generations. In this fashion, even those who refuse Christianity and other Eurocentric Western ideologies, lost our culture, belief system, identity and way of life.

The [Anglos] believed, when they heard the racist white Spanish slaveholders referred to us as Negro, that they were really saying 'necro,' another Latin word that means dead. A lot of African individuals, like Gabriel Prosser and Nat Turner, refused to be niggers. A nigger does not want to be free. He or she enjoys the confusion, ignorance, mental enslavement and darkness that come with being a nigger. Stop calling yourself nigger. A nigger is not an African, and an African is not a nigger. I strongly encourage the black man and woman, who describe themselves and our people as niggers, or excuse me, as niggaz, to delete it from their lingo. It's nasty, racist, disrespectful and a slap in the face to all our fore fathers and mothers who rebelled against everything that the word nigger represents: slavery, rape, confusion, and white supremacy.

--Excerpts from "The Psychology of The N Word"
by Kamau Zulu Damali a.k.a. Raynell Morgan #279380,
P.O. Box 9900, Boscobel WI 53805.

Whites don't go around calling each other cracker, hunky or peckerwood. Chicanos don't call each other wet backs. Those are considered derogatory names of each group. Yet it's an ugly reality that a lot of Black people continue to call each other and be called a 'nigga'. Too many fought, struggled and died to not be called niggers. They didn't want to be known as Mr. Smith's or Mr. Johnson's nigger.

That makes me recall a time in my uninformed stage, in 1991 or 92. I got "Real Nigga" cut into my hair. Looking back, and knowing what I now know, that was "real ignorant." I didn't know who I was or that a "nigga" was something that the white man made the black man into. It is not a term of endearment… I hear brothers speak the word so freely like, "You my nigga." They sound like the old slaveholders. Brothers think that 'nigga' and 'nigger' are two different words with two different meanings. But, the truth is one is just the southern pronunciation of the other and also means property of the white slaveholder. It means a person who can't have justice, peace, freedom, or true democracy… a person who calls himself a 'nigga' does so because he doesn't know who he really is or what the word really means. We must re-educate ourselves so we can return to our essence. Don't be 'niggas' no more.

-- Excerpts from "I don't want to be a nigga no mo'"
by Adam Due a.k.a. Marvin Wilson #297343,
P.O. Box 19033, Green Bay WI 54307.

Ever since being force-fed the Anglo tongue, we have been in a war of words. In the book "To Be a Slave," that reason is stated: "It's aim was to brainwash the slave, to destroy his mind and replace it with the mind of the master. In that way, the slave who would enslave himself, and there would be no need to police in. A slave should have no sense of himself that was separate from the self the master wanted him to have. Thus it was that no black had a name of his own.

He was given the surname of his owner, no matter how many owners. He might have during his life." (pp. 76-77) He was never asked who he was. He was asked, "Whose nigger are you?" You may look at our ancestors with shame. But you must ask yourself, a deeply personal question, "Who is really the more submissive slave, you or them?" It's one thing to accept or subjugation under the real threat and process of total extermination. But it's another to bow down voluntarily, and say, "Yes, I'm a nigger (or nigga in broken English)."

-- Excerpts from "War of Words."
By MKA Ajala a.k.a. Dennis Jones,
P.O. Box 9900, Boscobel WI 53805

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK
FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) **WE GO WHERE THEY GO:** Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) **WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US:** This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) **NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS:** In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people, to end all oppression and exploitation and build a classless socity

WE INTEND TO WIN!

ANTI-RACIST ACTION-LOS ANGELES/PEOPLE AGAINST RACIST TERROR
ARA-LA/PART
POBOX 1055*CULVERCITY CA 90232*310-495-0299
antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com
www.antiracistaction.us www.arastore.com www.geocities.com/ara_losangeles
"TURNING THE TIDE" is on-line at www.aratoronto.org

Why "White Power" Makes Whites Powerless

By Comrade Spider, White Panther Organization.

The White Panther Organization takes an emphatic stance against white supremacy and racism. We refute the legacy of white supremacy, and seek to reeducate white brothers and sisters who have been deluded by the concept of "white power." We believe that for poor whites to be liberated from class oppression and the suffering that comes with poverty, they must support the struggle of non-white peoples who have been historically oppressed by a rich white minority. All so-called "races" are brothers and sisters of the same species known as human, and as long as even one "race" is in bondage, then all are in bondage.

But our anti-racist stance is not merely liberal or moral. We have sound, scientific and historical reasons, and very practical reasons, why we feel that white supremacy must be combated. In short, the whole concept of "white power" and the white supremacist ideology on which it is based, is self-defeating and a contradiction in itself. It fails to empower whites, but instead becomes a psychological trap into which whites blindly fall, and thus become tools for the oppression not only of non-whites, but of themselves also.

There are various levels of white supremacy, each with its own material base, psychological motives, and ideological and physical manifestations. The most far-reaching form of white supremacy is that which served as justification for certain oppressive institutions such as the African slave trade. Economic gain was the primary motive for the slave trade, and white supremacy served as a type of moral justification for the horrible practice. Blacks especially were held as inferior to whites, as a sub-human species with no soul in the Judeo-Christian sense of the term. Therefore, the enslavement of blacks was tantamount to utilization of any other beast of burden such as a cow or mule. Or, if people of color were lucky enough to be considered human, white supremacists played a subtle shift in their doctrine and saw themselves as the bringers of "civilization" and Christianity to the "savage" conveniently non-white races. While they were exploiting the non-whites they claimed they were doing them a favor by saving their souls and civilizing them. Either way, racism, especially of the popular form of white supremacy over non-white peoples, is secondary to the primary contradiction of capitalism. When exploitation of non-whites begins to be put on trial as immoral, the justification presented is the belief that whites are somehow superior to non-whites.

Another ideology that grew out of the desire for economic gain is the concept of "Manifest Destiny." This phrase was first coined by an editor named John O'Sullivan in 1845 when he, specifically referring to the annexation (read, robbery) of Texas, said that it was "Our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions." Many immigrants were pouring into the young settler state, and more land was needed. No problem, there was plenty of land in the West and the "Southwest." The justification for this land-grab was found in the doctrine of Manifest Destiny, which held that God had allotted the land to these white Americans as a divine heritage; and who could argue with God that he had given the land to them?

This concept not only served as a justification for future annexations, but it gave a divine sanction to the prior legacy of white people's domination over non-white people and their land. Eventually the concept, which was first held as a tenet by the Democratic and then the Whig and later Republican Parties, was the basis for the annexation of Oregon and California and New Mexico, and also the purchase of Alaska and the annexation of Hawaii and the Philippines. Manifest Destiny was a convenient rationale for territorial expansion. While the phrase is no longer used outwardly in modern politics, we find its echo in the modern belief that the US has a divine purpose to spread its "democracy" to the utmost corners of the globe, even if that means unlawful occupation of other nations.

The next prominent step in white supremacist ideology was embodied in the Ku Klux Klan (KKK). After the Civil War ended, the problem of how to readmit the 11 Southern states into the union presented itself. Lincoln was relatively lenient in the conditions of readmission, but the radical Republicans were stricter and passed the Wade-Davis Bill in 1864 to set Reconstruction policy. Lincoln allowed the bill to expire by 'pocket veto.' President Johnson sought to continue Lincoln's lenient policies concerning the South, which restricted the freedom of former slaves and attempted to establish and assure white supremacy. The Black Code originated in the slave laws and took the form of vagrancy laws targeting unemployed blacks, apprentice laws that made orphans and dependent blacks available for hire to whites, and other economically based and motivated commercial laws designed to ensure white supremacy over the newly freed slaves. As a reaction to the South's belligerency concerning the treatment of blacks, the union was forced to implement strict legislation known as the Reconstruction Acts.

The period of Reconstruction is when the KKK entered the scene. It was formed in 1866 as a reaction to such measures imposed on the south by the union such as the 14th and 15th amendments, military districts, and other acts that were meant to bring the South in line with northern policies. The KKK explicitly opposed Reconstruction, and sought to maintain white domination over blacks by using terrorist methods to prevent blacks from voting. The Klan saw these new measures imposed by the North as a threat to white sovereignty in the South, and they were not going to sit idly by and watch this supremacy be taken away from them. They dissolved in the 1870s, after Reconstruction was defeated. The KKK reappeared in Georgia in 1915 as a reaction to the increasing immigrant population, and fear of the Russian Revolution. After a period of decline, it resurfaced again in the 1950s and 60s to combat the civil rights movement, always using its method of fear-inducing violence to maintain white domination.

The forms of white supremacy that we who are in prison witness the most are the Aryan and/or neo-Nazi types. There are many of these types of groups in prison in white neighborhoods. The most well-known is probably the Aryan Brotherhood, and others are the Aryan Nations, the White Aryan Resistance, and other racist bonehead gangs. All of them in some form or another claim the Aryan ideology known from Hitler as their guiding ideology.

The Aryans were a prehistoric people who settled in northern India and Iran. They were not a race as such, but a group of people speaking Indo-European (especially the Indo-Iranian) languages. In the 1800s, a French social theorist, the Count de Gobineau, wrote the essay *On the Inequality of Human Races*. This work asserted the superiority of the white race over nonwhites, and claimed that the Germanic peoples, dubbed Aryans by the count, were the height of civilization. His claim was that whites were superior, and would remain so as long as they remain free of black and yellow strains. This madness was propagated by the Count's disciple, a British-born lover of German culture named Houston Chamberlain (d. 1927), and from him, the Aryan concept influenced Hitler and his national socialist (Nazi) movement.

It's important to realize however, that most of the Aryan-style groups we come in contact with in prison have no real political goals, aims or ambitions. It is also important not to be overly simplistic or generalizing when discussing or dealing with these groups, although they all have some common characteristics, such as a professed belief in white supremacy, the need to "preserve the white races" from mixing with nonwhites, and purported allegiance to the thought of Hitler, expressed in the use of the swastika and S.S. lightning bolts. These groups, particularly the Aryan Brotherhood, sprang up in prison as a reaction to desegregation and the mass incarceration of Blacks. The primary motive for these groups was protection and identification in the face of growing ethnic diversity within prisons, and the appropriation of Nazi ideology served a secondary function as justification for the cliques.

Material conditions gave rise to these various expressions of racism, and the ideology was secondary. Most are organized for protection and/or criminal pursuits such as drug dealing. Some are overtly gang-bangers, ironically, mimicking the Black gangs in their actions, especially in prison. Others supplement their white supremacist ideology with a Christian and biblical identity. The important thing to realize is that these groups usually have protection or criminal pursuits as a motivation, while the racist ideology is secondary. I would go so far as to say that many of the members are not actually racist, yet paid lip service to the ideology to obtain membership and its benefits.

Having painted this very concise picture of some white supremacist trends, I return to my main point that the concept of "white power" doesn't empower whites in a real sense, and is therefore a faulty ideology. The White Panther Organization has no problem with the need for whites to empower themselves. But the mantra white power and the Aryan or anti-black sense is founded on ludicrous assumptions and nonscientific premises, motivated by fear another reactionary tendencies. It is perpetuated by a system that oppresses poor whites as indiscriminately as it does Blacks. Poor whites are tricked into believing that people of color are at the root of their problems, while the true perpetrators – the capitalists and monopolist bosses – never bear the brunt of their rage. White workers are deceived into thinking that their low wages, increased job insecurity, and unhealthy working conditions are caused by immigrants or minorities. In the same manner, whites in prison have been tricked into being intimidated by Blacks, instead of resisting the conditions that resulted in their incarceration. The shield meant to protect them protects their true enemy instead. And the white supremacists at the top of the system have no love for the white supremacists at the bottom, those in the slums and prisons.

The Willie Lynch concept no longer applies merely to Blacks. Prisoners are kept divided on the basis of race, color, culture, religion, and other superficial identifications. Who profits from this division? Who is actually being empowered by this? The white supremacy ideology empowers corporate bosses, who profit from our division. The slave-masters exploit whites with the same ferocity as they do Blacks. They are getting richer and richer, while we are getting poorer and poorer.

Huey P. Newton, Minister of Defense for the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, once said. "White power for white people," in the same breath as "Black Power for Black People." Even in his time, he knew that poor whites were just as much victims of the capitalist system as Blacks were. He didn't mean white power in a white supremacist sense, just as he didn't mean Black power in a Black supremacist sense. He meant all power to the people. Empowerment does not come at the cost of another race, or by any ideology that this one rates above another. True empowerment comes when all races, creeds, colors, and cultures unite to defeat a common enemy: capitalist imperialism.

The system compels corporations to pack up and go to other countries, where wages are ridiculously lower, leaving thousands of whites and nonwhites alike, jobless. This is the enemy of poor whites. The imperialist system that constitutionally sanctions slavery, for white and nonwhite prisoners alike, paying both the same slave wages, depriving both of the right to vote, or pressing both by inhumane living conditions – that is the enemy of poor whites. But poor whites cannot defeat this enemy, and thereby improve our own conditions. By blaming nonwhites, or by believing in some perceived white supremacist ideology. Those things only empower the enemy. For poor whites to truly empower ourselves, we must reject these unscientific, outdated and superstitious ideas of white supremacy and join forces with Blacks, Latinos, Asians, Arabs, and all other oppressed people everywhere. As long as whites continued to scream white power in the Aryan sense of the phrase, they are actually forfeiting their own power to the corporate bosses, and falling into the trap that was not for them. White supremacy is making whites powerless, especially in the prison system, where it is found in a concentrated form. This ideology does not give poor whites a better life, but instead keeps us from the very thing that will truly empower us: uniting with all oppressed nationalities to fight the common enemy and capitalist-imperialist system. The only truly revolutionary power is People Power, the combined power of the masses, regardless of race, nationality, creed, religion or color. White people, join the White Panther Organization today! Unite with the Black Panthers, and all truly revolutionary groups of oppressed peoples! All power to the people!

For more information concerning the White Panther Organization, the New Afrikan Black Panther Party, or the Red Heart Warriors Society, right: P.O. Box 4362, Allentown, PA 18105. The author can be reached for correspondence at: Billy Johnson #322385, P.O. Box 279, Clifton TN 38425, and I can receive mail from other inmates.

Editor's Note: Although we disagree with a number of aspects of the WPO's ideology, we admire and respect the work they are doing to confront white supremacy and build solidarity inside the walls, especially as they function in solidarity and under the leadership of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party-Prison Chapter.

Gaza Massacre Rooted in Colonial Occupation

By Chandra Muzaffar

[Israel, Obama, and the US media blame Hamas for the violence.] While rocket attacks targeting civilians in the southern part of Israel are wrong from the point of view of international law, the media has failed to tell the public the truth about why Hamas ended the truce and how Israel is largely responsible for the underlying conflict. There are at least five dimensions to the larger context shaping the conflict that have not been highlighted in the media.

One, even after the so-called Israeli "withdrawal" from Gaza in August 2005, the Israeli army has conducted numerous raids and air strikes in Gaza in the name of fighting "terrorism" which have killed hundreds of civilians including women and children. These assaults intensified after Hamas captured the Palestinian Legislative Council in a free election in January 2006. When Hamas ousted Fatah, Israel went all out to destroy Hamas by military and non-military means.

Two, in spite of Israeli attacks, Hamas, a few violations notwithstanding, observed its June 2008 truce with Israel. Not a single Israeli was killed by Hamas rocket fire during the six-month period of the truce. The Hamas leadership even proposed a 10-year truce to Israel in April 2008. There was no response from Israel. Because of continuous Israeli military strikes, the closure of border crossings and a suffocating blockade of Gaza, imposed by Israel, Hamas was forced to end the truce.

Three, in juxtaposing Hamas rockets with the Israeli arsenal, the media seldom mentions the tremendous asymmetry in military power between the two sides. What are Hamas's homemade rockets compared with the wide range of sophisticated lethal weaponry at the command of the world's fourth most powerful army? The death toll from the present assault tells the whole story: Over 500 Palestinians to five Israelis even before the ground invasion.

Four, one has to place this asymmetry in the context of the Israeli blockade of Gaza that began soon after Hamas won the 2006 election. By punishing the people of Gaza for voting for Hamas through the imposition of a blockade that has increased poverty and destitution and denies life-saving drugs to the critically ill, Israel has made the victims of its cruel and callous siege even angrier and more desperate. The media hasn't attempted to link Hamas's rocket attacks to the siege.

Five, neither has the media explained to the people that at the root of this longstanding conflict that goes back to the beginning of the 20th century is the occupation and annexation of Palestine and the oppression of the Palestinians. Within a year of the unjust partition of the land in 1948, 78 per cent of Palestine was in the hands of the Zionists. Gaza is part of the 22 per cent that was annexed in 1967. Since 1948, Israel, argues Israeli historian Ilan Pappe, has embarked upon a policy of "ethnic cleansing" that seeks to eliminate the indigenous Palestinians from their land. None of these facts and opinions is aired in the mainstream international media. It is not difficult to understand why this is so. Zionist influence over the US-Europe controlled international media is enormous.

This is perhaps a propitious moment to challenge it. The US economy is facing its severest crisis, which must impact adversely upon Zionist power both directly and indirectly. With its inevitable economic decline, US global hegemony, which has been a critical factor in sustaining and perpetuating Israel's military dominance of the Middle East, is also coming to an end. New patterns of global power are in the offing. At a time like this, it is important that Americans themselves realize that blind, uncritical US support and protection for Israel is damaging to US interests. In the last few years, some from the US establishment have begun to see this. Jimmy Carter is a case in point.

The Palestinians and other Arabs who have to contend with Zionist power should also develop more effective strategies to pursue their struggle for justice. At this juncture many of them oscillate between violence and rhetoric. What is needed is strategic thinking and planning which will produce new forms of challenge and resistance to Zionist dominance. For instance, those who try to break Israel's Gaza blockade by transporting food and medicines through ships are not only providing much needed assistance but are also raising public consciousness about the inhumanity of the Israeli regime. Two women have been at the forefront of such initiatives: the Nobel laureate Mairead Maguire and former US congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. Such initiatives, it is hoped, will accelerate the demise of Zionist power and US hegemony and create the conditions for the liberation of the Palestinians and other oppressed peoples. Dr Chandra Muzaffar is Professor of Global Studies at Universiti Sains Malaysia and president of the International Movement for a Just World (JUST). He was on the *Internet Court on Israel's War of Extermination against Palestine*. http://nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Saturday/Columns/2442454/index.pda

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TURNING THE TIDE

The People United Will Never Be Defeated!

STOP THE BOMBING & INVASION!
END THE OCCUPATION!
FREE GAZA –
FREE, FREE PALESTINE!

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We Are All Palestinians!

Solidarity against Massacres and Occupation!

By Michael Novick, *Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)*

It is one of the odd conceits of US mythology that history is measured in presidential administrations (or occasionally in decade-long "generations"). The unleashing of the Israeli onslaught on the Palestinians in Gaza during the interregnum between Bush-43 and "Agent of Change" Obama makes it clear that this demarcation serves only the interests of the Empire. The convenient use by the Zionists of the "Who's watching the store?" period between the election and inauguration of Obama allows Bush and Obama alike to pretend that their bloody fingerprints are not all over the bombing, invasion and massacre. The Israelis have several weeks to create the "facts on the ground" while this pretense of U.S. non-involvement continues.

The Israelis and their Zionist apologists in the US profess to be outraged by comparisons of Israel to the nazis and fascists, because, as one opined in the LA Times, there are more Palestinians today than there were when Israel was founded. As if complete extermination were the only definition of genocide, or as if Hitler's genocide of European Jewry took place overnight without historical antecedents or a process of development. Of course, Hitler, too, started small, nurtured by US Klansmen, encouraged by the silence about Turkey's massacres of Armenians, educated by Germany's decimation of the Herero people of Namibia ('German' South West Africa), emboldened by the inability of the League of Nations to stop the Italian invasion of Ethiopia. This month marks the 72nd anniversary of the Abraham Lincoln Brigades, volunteers recruited from among working and oppressed people in the U.S. as one of several International Brigades formed to fight the nazi-supported Franco counter-revolution in Spain, in which, as in Gaza, (not to mention during "Shock and Awe" in Iraq), air power was used against civilian targets in violation of international law. These "premature anti-fascists" who later faced red-baiting and persecution in the US if they survived their engagement against Franco and Hitler in Spain, provide a sterling example today of the true meaning of solidarity.

Thankfully, we are beginning to see some glimmers of the kind of direct action that is needed against the fascist onslaught by Israel in Gaza (as well as the ongoing occupations of Iraq and Afghanista by the US). One such is the Free Gaza Movement, which has challenged the Israeli blockade. On january 7, they declared, "Today the Free Gaza Movement put Israel on notice that we are sending another emergency boat to Gaza. We will announce our exact departure date, time and route in the next few days. We will travel from Cypriot waters, into international waters, then directly into Gaza territorial waters, never nearing Israeli waters. The ongoing Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip have killed over 640 Palestinians, including many children and women, and injured thousands. These acts by Israel are severe and massive violations of international humanitarian law … The United Nations has failed to protect the Palestinian civilian population…. Therefore, we concerned citizens from Belgium, Columbia, France, Canada, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Kuwait, Scotland, Spain, and the United States, feel that it is our moral duty to try to do just that."

The Israeli military violently attacked an earlier attempt by the Free Gaza Movement to send an emergency boat filled with doctors and medical supplies to Gaza. In the early hours of Tuesday, December 30, the Israeli Navy rammed their boat, the DIGNITY, in international waters. Among the 16 passengers on board, whose lives were endangered by the three rammings by the Israelis, was former US Rep. Cynthia McKinney. While Obama broke his silence to blame Hamas for the violence, McKinney was putting her life on the line and her money where her mouth was to defy the unlawful US-backed Zionist embargo of the Palestinians. Despite death threats received by the organizers warning them not to repeat their attempt, they intend to try again. You can reach the organizers at these contact points:

Huwaida Arraf (Cyprus): +357-96-723-999, huwaida.arraf@gmail.com, Angela Godfrey-Goldstein (Jerusalem): +972-547-366-393, angela@icahd.org and Ramzi Kysia (U.S): +1-703-994-5422, rrkysia@yahoo.com.

Meanwhile the efforts by the Israeli to prevent media coverage of their massacres has resulted in the first stirrings of complaint even from the docile US media lapdogs, reflecting perhaps a certain unease or division among US rulers about the costs or consequences of Zionist intransigence. The Los Angeles Times went so far as to print an op-ed piece directly from Mousa Abu Marzook of Hamas. He declared: "Palestinians everywhere mark the closing of the Bush era with relief. Nevertheless, skepticism runs high that any justice for our people might come from a new president who remained ominously silent in the presence of the latest Israeli onslaught, and who has aligned himself so thoroughly with Israel's interests, so long in advance of taking power. But now, as the death toll rises in the hundreds, with thousands wounded -- all victims of American taxpayers' largesse -- Palestinians wonder how Obama will react to the escalating crisis. They demand of the next White House a new paradigm of respect and accountability, because when Palestinians see an F-16 with the Star of David painted on its tail, they see America." Rightly so – Israel (along with Egypt, which has acquiesced in the attacks) is the largest recipient of US military and non-military aid, affording the world's 4th largest army.

"Our spirit to fight on is the legacy of collective suffering. With tens of thousands dead or wounded by decades of the 'peace process,' you cannot find a family in Palestine -- Muslim or Christian, Hamas, Fatah, PFLP or Islamic Jihad -- without a son or daughter killed, injured, jailed or tortured," Marzook continued, "or which does not count itself or its kin among the millions of refugees living in UN camps. Hamas is not a handful of leaders. Israel may kill all of the current leadership in this round of violence, including me, and its organic, social infrastructure will not go away. We are, simply put, a homegrown national liberation resistance movement, with millions of people who support our struggle for freedom and justice."

Marzook issued an invitation to Obama. "No American leader has ever visited a Palestinian refugee camp anywhere, much less in Gaza -- a startling fact, considering the central role America has played in our people's narrative. None has dared to look our refugees in their faces and experience their suffering directly. In observance of the storied tradition of Arab hospitality to guests, and anticipating that day when an American president fulfills his promise of change, we extend the invitation now, and we will put the kettle on."

Whether Obama will accept the invitation is unlikely. It's time for the people who have put so much faith in Obama to respond to this invitation ourselves by pouring into the streets to denounce the massacre, carried out by Zionist settler-colonialism, but "made in the USA," the original home and world model of settler colonialism. The striking similarities between the maps of Native land in America and Arab land in Palestine attest to those affinities. In particular, US Jews need to declare our loud opposition to the attacks, the invasion and the occupation as a whole. Former US Ambassador to the UN Bolton declared quite openly that the war against Hamas is the opening salvo in a wider Middle East war against Iran (which ARA-LA/PART has predicted for several years is part of a longer-range genocidal US war against China). No true interest of any Jews, either in the US or in Palestine/Israel, is served by support for Zionism, imperialism and settler colonialism, all of which inevitably breed war. We need to launch a broad, militant and sustained people's counter-offensive against the war machine and settler-colonial capitalist imperialism as a system before it is too late.

Free Puerto Rican Political Prisoner Carlos Alberto Torres

Puerto Rican Political Prisoner Carlos Alberto Torres is going before the Federal Parole Board on Monday January 19, 2009! Now more than ever, we need to show the Parole Board that he has international support. We need to send the Parole board thousands of these letters! We must flood their mailboxes with our demands for Carlos Alberto's parole! WE CAN MAKE FREEDOM HAPPEN! The National Boricua Human Rights Network, El Comite de Derechos Humanos de Puerto Rico (The Puerto Rican Human Rights Committee), and The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign, are calling on all supporters of the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners to sign the letter attached and mail it to:

Jan Susler (Lawyer) 1180 N. Milwaukee Ave. 3rd Fl. Chicago, Il 60622

TO THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION:

Carlos Alberto Torres has spent 29 years in prison for his struggle for the self-determination and independence of the people of Puerto Rico. His conduct in prison has been exemplary, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin, and working at various prison jobs, helping his fellow prisoners. He has become an accomplished painter and ceramic artist, and hopes to support himself and his family working as an artisan, teaching his craft and selling his work.

In 1979 and 1999, two U.S. Presidents released a total of 16 Puerto Rican political prisoners, who are all living successful, productive lives, supporting themselves and their families and making positive contributions to their nation.

Carlos was not convicted of hurting anyone or taking anyone's life, yet he was sentenced to 78 years in prison. While he continues behind bars, police officers convicted of the premeditated murders of two young Puerto Rican activists in 1978 in Cerro Maravilla were just released on parole in August 2008.

Carlos will appear before the Parole Commission to seek release on parole. I add my voice to the broad support for his release, in Puerto Rico as well as in the U.S.

Signature:_____ printed name: _____

street address: _____ city, state, zip: _____

BIOGRAPHY of CARLOS ALBERTO TORRES

Carlos Alberto Torres was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico on September 19, 1952. His parents moved to New York, finally settling in Chicago. He studied in the University of Illinois in Carbondale and Chicago. He studied sociology at Southern Illinois University and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Carlos Alberto was involved in the struggles to recruit more Latin@s to the University, against racism, and police abuse. Carlos was one of the founders of the Rafael Cancel Miranda Puerto Rican High School now known as the Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School and participated in the Committee to Free the 5 Nationalists. In 1976, Carlos was forced to go underground and was on the FBI's 10 most wanted list. He was captured along with other comrades and sentenced to 78 years on charges of seditious conspiracy, among other charges. Although the Clinton Administration offered clemency to 12 Puerto Rican political prisoners in the fall of 1999, no leniency was granted to Carlos Torres. Prosecutors described him as a leader of the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional (FALN), an underground organization which fought for Puerto Rico's independence in the 1970s and '80s. His release date is 2024. He is currently in prison in Oxford, Wisconsin.

LETTERS AND RESPONSES TO TURNING THE TIDE: "THE PRISON ISSUE"

In response to your 'Editor Replies' to my 'New Afrikan Community Emergency Response Network Manifesto':

As a New Afrikan revolutionary, I appreciate constructive criticism, but I equally detest ambush criticism, which is self-serving. Initially I had no intention of responding to your ambush criticism, because it did not pertain to the laws of dialectical materialism. For example, the first stage is the unity of struggle of opposites. This means, one must obtain all relevant information concerning that which one opposes. That was not done. You equally neglected the second stage, transforming quantity to quality and went directly to the third stage, negation to negation, and then the fourth stage, final interpretation. Being that your ambush criticism has the potential to perpetuate the fallacy that we in prison are incapable of comprehending the realities that face our people without outside interpretations or paternal guidance, as if we are infants in the struggle, do I detect left-wing elitism?

For the sake of clarity, I am obligated to respond and challenge that notion that we don't understand the principle of concrete analysis of concrete conditions. Let's analyze those conditions as they apply to Hurricane Katrina. This government don't give a damn about poor people, New Afrikan (Black) people in particular. It's willing to let us suffer and die. We can no longer afford to rely on this government to do what we should be doing for ourselves. Yet we as a people lack the capacity to survive on our own during a natural disaster. We must develop programs independent of this government to serve our needs and interests. Help me understand, where am I wrong in this analysis? This manifesto was a direct response to the above conditions, written a week after Katrina and before Rita. The conditions were ripped into the minds of the people, and if it had been distributed at that time, would have been more acceptable as the pain and tragedy was fresh in the minds of the people. When most so-called revolutionaries was stuck on anti-capitalist/KKK government propaganda, our concern was trying to save our people. Now we are three years removed, and not one New Afrikan community is prepared for a crisis/natural disaster. Do you realize how much could have been achieved in three years?

You also stated, "The institutions… in this plan are far beyond the current …capacities of our movements to implement." Now, I ask you, how do you define our capacity as a people or movement? Who are you to impose limitations on our capacity to build socialist institutions on our own behalf? Are we as New Afrikans bound by your ignorance? My comrades, do you really believe we are completely out of touch? Well, contrary to this myth, we communicate with a number of community activists and grassroots groups, we understand the need to stay connected with the people in the trenches and maintain a consistent flow of information from the inside to the outside and vice-versa. Your question should have been two-fold: Why is this manifesto significant given the current conditions? How can we implement it?

If you truly comprehend concrete analysis of concrete conditions, you would not have been so premature in your ambush criticism. The manifesto may not be considered a priority in California, but those New Afrikan communities that face a potential Katrina every year will be more receptive, because their reality makes such a proposal a necessity. I guarantee that the New Afrikan communities in New Orleans, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and the Carolinas would disagree with you. You can't define their priority – you are the one out of touch. It was hurricane season again, the perfect condition to reintroduce the manifesto. I agree it's not a priority for our communities in CA, the midwest or northeast. Each community shares common realities, but they often have different priorities as well as different levels of consciousness or activism.

I have always been critical of those who reject a vision because they are blind to it. I am aware the New Afrikan community lacks the **organized** capacity to implement my manifesto. I say "organized" because we as a people have the capacity and resources, but it is a matter of mobilizing it. Because you don't see it, has nothing to do with us; we have a practical plan. Let me elaborate: the manifesto was never designed to be implemented all at once; we will take the most practical aspects and mobilize our community around them. For example, the most crucial and simplest aspect you did not print, but it will be the first element we implement. That's the emergency response survival kit: first aid kit, water, non-perishable food, lights, flares, flint, matches, radios, blackberry, whistle, shovel, blades, batteries,bags, life raft, etc. We will develop a non-profit group to raise money to buy these supplies and give them to New Afrikan families in those areas prone to hurricanes, along with an instructional manual on their use and evacuation instructions applicable to their specific area. This may be irrelevant to you in Culver City, but would be deeply appreciated by those New Afrikan families that experienced Katrina and Rita. We will use this program as a platform to consolidate these New Afrikan families around other issues, a similar strategy to that used by the BPP. They used the Free Breakfast program, mobile clinic and community patrols to politicize and mobilize our communities. I learned about Chairman Mao as a child (Black panther cub) eating in the Free Breakfast program; I learned the significance of self-defense while walking community patrol with my father. The program is an incentive and catalyst to connect the people to our socialist revolution.

How do we expect to finance this program? Along the southern and gulf coast there are a number of successful Hip-Hop/Rap artists that have been active in the communities impacted by Katrina and Rita. I have no problem asking these brothas and sistas for financial donations. I have no doubt they will support this project if they are presented with the opportunity. Cash Money Records gave us a shout out in their movie and song, they are very wealthy and they were born and raised in New Orleans. They have been generous in donating to relief efforts; their old neighborhoods were destroyed by Katrina. I have no doubt when the time comes to call on them to financially support this manifesto, they will be there, along with Master P, Scarface, Ludacris, Outkast, Ciara, Little Bow Wow, Flo Rida, Bradford Marsalis, to name just a few. So you were wrong to conclude we don't have the capacity, and wrong to make that public proclamation as if our capacities are determined by you. Comrades, we know the capabilities of our people, and refuse to allow you or anyone else to impose restraints on it. You were out of line trying to tell New Afrikans that we don't have the capacity to implement my manifesto; you are only qualified to define the capacity of ARA. You ignored where I clearly wrote the manifesto is a discussion paper designed to facilitate dialogue toward developing a working blueprint. This negates your ambush criticism, and reduces it to opportunism. I am a little surprised to see this coming from you.

I do agree that the inside and outside must establish a clear line of communication, but not on the premise you implied. Our imprisonment does not impede our ability to accurately analyze the concrete conditions. We are not going to engage in rhetoric and ignore the needs of our people. We can't feed our hungry, house our homeless, employ the jobless or protect our communities with rhetoric or propaganda. If you look around the country, the so-called revolutionary movement has been reduced to a propaganda machine. Nobody is providing the people with concrete service; they think sounding revolutionary is being revolutionary. The BPP was effective because when they presented the 10-point platform they simultaneously implemented community-based survival programs to support the revolutionary rhetoric. We can't name one group out there that has replicated that approach.

One of the functional goals of my manifesto is to promote the idea of our community developing our own institutions to serve our interests. Then we can cultivate the seed in the consciousness of our people to evolve into a breathing reality in the hearts of our people. These programs are a basic blueprint to construct future institutions designed to disconnect the people from dependency on this fascist KKK-government. Comrades, I trust you will print my response in its entirety. I now bid you a geneuine revolutionary armed salute! – Abdul Olugbala Shakur, s/n J. Harvey, #C-48884/D-4-112 (SHU), PBSP, PO Box 7500, Crescent City CA 95532.

Reply: ***TTT*** printed what we could of the manifesto because of its merits. The response was not meant so much as a criticism as a lament of how far it was from realization. We take your criticism seriously and hope this further coverage will hasten implementation.

Dear Editor:

Please inform your readers that there are dedicated members of the New Afrikan Maoist Party (NAMP) who would definitely volunteer in helping to respond to the needs and aspirations of those prisoners you alluded to. Refer them to the New African Maoist Party, P.O. Box 40799, San Francisco, CA 94140, attn: Makamu Kiongozi, or e-mail him at namp@nym.hush.com. Although the NAMP's immediate focus is their three people's goals of combating Imperialism, Racism and Sexism, they have been successful in assisting individuals here in the East coast and combating repressive conditions. I respectfully request you to continue strongly in your work. In solidarity, Mutota Vitayam'tu #98A1398, Five Points CF, State Rte. 96, PO Box 119, Romulus NY 14541

Revolutionary greetings!

My name is Kijani Tashiri Askari, a New Afrikan Black political prisoner of war. In the editor's note to the "New Afrikan Emergency Community Response Initiative," you spoke about the need for a material connection with the captive class of freedom fighters and those out in Babylon for purposes of working together on a number of issues. I firmly agree with you! However, with you being on the ground in Babylon as a soldier for the people, it's imperative for you to compose a list of organizations or people willing to work with the captive class of freedom fighters. We have several projects developed towards rebuilding community, reclaiming the people's minds from the oppressors, but the primary contradiction is not having any committed soldiers on the ground to put these projects in motion and make them a material reality.

There are several prison organizations out in Babylon that profess to work to support the rights of prisoners, but when one makes a critical assessment of that material existence, one concludes that most of these organizations are mired in idealism. We need organizations that can advance ideas are practical and concrete action. These organizations must have some type of concrete relationship of struggle with the captive class of freedom fighters in order to advance the idea of being a prisoner rights group. Please make a list of such organizations available. To learn more about me, log onto www.myspace.com/dare2struggle or e-mail tashiri@gmail.com. You may also write for some pamphlets of mine to Anthony Rayson, P.O. Box 721, Homewood IL 60430. Ask for Kijana Tashiri Askari's pamphlets "the series, volume #1 through #4."
All power to the people who do not fear real freedom!

Resource List of Prisoner Rights and Solidarity Organizations:

Here are some organizations that work with prisoners, ex-cons and their families. This list doesn't constitute an endorsement or evaluation of their politics or program:

The Jericho Amnesty Movement
PO Box 1272 New York NY 10113, 718-949-5153,
www.thejerichomovement.com
All of Us or None c/o A New Way of Life
PO Box 875288, Los Angeles CA 90087,
323-563-3575, www.allofusornone.org
Critical Resistance
1904 Frankin #504, Oakland CA 94612
510-444-0487, www.criticalresistance.org
Education Not Incarceration
2940 16th St. #209, San Francisco CA 94110,
415-595-8251, iolmisha@cs.com
Innocence Project
100 Fifth Ave. 3rd floor, New York NY 10001,
212-364-5340
Justice Denied
PO Box 68911, Seattle WA 98168,
206-335-4254, www.justicedenied.org
Legal Services to Prisoners with Children
1540 Market St. #490, San Francisco CA 94102,
415-255-7036, www.prisonerswithchildren.org
Anarchist Black Cross Federation (Los Angeles)
P.O. Box 11223, Whittier CA 90603, la@abcf.net
StopMAX c/o AFSC
1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia PA 19102, 215-241-7137
CURE, PO Box 2310 National Capitol Station,
Washington DC 20013-2310, 202-789-2126
Center for Constitutional Rights
666 Broadway 7th floor, New York NY 10012,
212-614-6481, www.telephonejustice.org
Native American Prisoner Rights Advocacy Coalition
c/o Len Foster, Navajo Nation Corrections Program,
PO Drawer 709, Window Rock AZ 86515
Malcolm X Grassroots Movement
PO Box 471711, Brooklyn NY 11247, 718-254-8800,
www.mxgm.org, National: 877-248-6095
Prisoner Solidarity
PO Box 4337, Canton OH 44705, www.
prisonersolidarity.org
Asheville Prison Books Program c/o Readers Corner,
31 Montford Ave., Asheville NC 28801, 828-254-3025

Sometimes You Wake Up and It's Different:

Statement from Austin, TX on Brandon Darby, the Informant/Provocateur in the "Texas 2" RNC Case

by The Austin Informant Working Group

As part of the wave of government repression against activists protesting at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, MN in September 2008, the FBI arrested two men from Texas, Bradley Crowder (22) and David McKay (23), and indicted them for allegedly possessing Molotov cocktails. Crowder and McKay have been in jail since the RNC. They have not been granted bail and their trial has been postponed indefinitely. They are facing 7 to 10 years in federal prison.

As outlined in the affidavit against Crowder and McKay (http://media.houston.indymedia.org/uploads/2008/09/090808_mckay_affidavit.pdf), the case was built almost entirely on the statements of two informants covertly working with the FBI, identified in the affidavit as "Confidential Human Sources" or just "CHS".

One of these informants was working in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area ("CHS 2" in the affidavit) and has been previously identified as Andy/Panda by people familiar with the situation and the informant. This statement ends speculation and anticipation concern about the identity of the other informant who was operating in TX and MN. Using FBI documents previously unknown to us, but recently provided by one of the defendant's defense teams, we have positively confirmed the identity of the unnamed informant ("CHS 1" in the affidavit) as Brandon Michael Darby of Austin, Texas, based on the following evidence:

1) The FBI documents detail private conversations between Darby and several individuals named in the documents, including scott crow and Lisa Fithian, who have closely reviewed the documents and confirmed that they had the conversations in question with only Darby. In addition they can confirm his participation in events reported in the documents.

2) In verbatim reports from the informant to the FBI, the language, personality, skills, and interests of Darby are readily apparent to those who know him.

3) Cross-referencing the time line provided by the FBI in the documents with people familiar with the situation and course of events shows that Darby was in a position to have the incriminating conversations with McKay referenced in the affidavit.

4) In all of the documents Brandon Darby's name is conspicuously absent from any and all meetings and events which he attended and was involved in. In fact Darby's name only appears at the end of all the documents in a confession made by David McKay upon his arrest in Minnesota.

Numerous people familiar with both Brandon Darby and the legal situation of Crowder and McKay have verified this information.

Over the years Brandon Darby has established strong ties with individuals in many different radical communities across the US. While it is not yet clear how long or to what extent Darby has been acting as an informant, the emerging truth about Darby's malicious involvement in our communities is heart-breaking and utterly ground-shattering to those of us who were closest to him.

Darby operated in and around the Austin community for about 6 years, and this is the same Brandon Darby who participated in the Common Ground Collective in New Orleans during 2005-2006. Based on the evidence we have, Brandon has been giving the state information since at least November 2007, but there is also information that suggests his informant activities may go back further, at least to 2006 or earlier. In the documents, Darby makes numerous remarks that are inflammatory and often untrue or grossly taken out of context. There is also compelling evidence to suggest that Darby, more than just reporting on Crowder and McKay's activities, was actively encouraging, enabling, and provoking the two men to take illegal action.

We recognize that suspicions and accusations of Darby have been circulating for some time now, including one corporate media article by David Hanners in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on October 29, 2008. Our aim in releasing this information is to clear the confusion that has circulated in the last few months.

We want to point out that while the conclusions of these suspicions and accusations turned out to be correct, these conclusions were not based on any verifiable facts, and thus, their public airing was inappropriate and irresponsible. When these accusations surfaced, we did what we could to quash them, trusting what we believed to be true about people in the absence of any compelling evidence to the contrary. Having been presented with new evidence, we are acting on it promptly and deliberately.

Through the history of our struggles for a better world, infiltrators and informants have acted as tools for the forces of misery in disrupting and derailing our movements. However, even more dangerous to our communities than setting people up, turning them in, or gathering information, informants sow seeds of fear, paranoia, and distrust that fester and grow in paralyzing and destructive ways. We must be forever vigilante against deceptive, malicious and manipulative actors, while we defend the trust and openness that give our communities cohesion and power.

Now we must get on with the work of supporting the "Texas 2". In light of these revelations and what we know about Brandon Darby, we believe they were set up and that the charges should be dropped. We urge you to join us in a campaign to "Free the Texas 2"

The New York Times reports: "Mr. Darby provided descriptions of meetings with the defendants and dozens of other people in Austin, Minneapolis and St. Paul. He wore recording devices at times, including a transmitter embedded in his belt during the convention. He also went to Minnesota with Mr. Crowder four months before the Republican gathering and gave detailed narratives to law enforcement authorities of several meetings they had with activists from New York, San Francisco, Montana and other places….The F.B.I. reports mentioned dozens of people, most of whom have not been accused of any crime. In addition to listing biographical and physical particulars, Mr. Darby frequently offered observations on the motives, attitudes and states of mind of activists with whom he dealt."

For more information:
http://grandjuryresistance.org/
http://rnc8.org/

Editor comments:

Long before achieving notoriety as a snitch, Brandon Darby got a lot of media attention and coverage as a "movement star" (check Google Images for Brandon Darby). I'm wondering to what extent he ever got called or checked on his elitism or sexism before he made what he calls the "choice" to be a snitch for the Feebs.

There's an even grimmer recounting of protracted infiltration/snitching from New Zealand at **http://indymedia.org.nz/newswire/display/76563/index.php**

The questions we need to start asking ourselves are about the role of liberalism, white and male supremacy in this kind of deviation. By "liberalism," I mean people in the movement being liberal with each other, 'cutting each other slack,' seeing problems in others or experiencing problems in ourselves but not confronting them. This is not exclusive to any nationality, class or gender, but in my experience in the so-called "white left," it's related to white and male supremacy, class privilege, elitism, etc. People who'd rather not be held accountable for change in our own individualism, attitudes and practices are unlikely to challenge others constructively about them.

Because I doubt Darby was a plant in the first place, but instead much more likely someone who flip-flopped and then dug deeper into a state-mole role. History is replete with people who moved right from the left, naming names and justifying it, becoming staunch reactionaries in the process. This is not unheard of among Black, Mexicano, Native, Asian and Puerto Rican radicals (all of whose movements have suffered from infiltration and turncoats). But it's widespread in the white left, going back to the CPUSA and Trotskyists, but also in the "new left' (SDS et al), and more recently has plagued the militant environmental movement. The whole green scare phenomenon has been replete with people ratting each other out, to the point where those who stood strong almost seemed to be the exceptions in some cases.

Self-confessed FBI 'informant' and suspected provocateur Brandon Darby, in a photo taken during his days in New Orleans with Common Ground.

Why are we only now hearing about women 'fleeing' Common Ground because Darby was a sexual predator? To the extent ARA people were involved in TX or Louisiana, we need to ask ourselves why we weren't more on top of such a dynamic, why we weren't applying or expressing some of the lessons of ARA's own struggles with sexual predation in other related arenas of the movement. In NZ, the informant also had multiple sexual relationships with movement women, and engaged in other suspicious behavior, but people didn't feel enough trust in their own instincts until he was exposed. Not a witch-hunt of accusations that such-and-so is an agent, but an atmosphere in which we struggle with ourselves and each other about elitism, privilege, white and male supremacy is a less conducive to infiltration or treason.

Self-criticism is vital because from long and sometimes bitter experience in radical and would-be revolutionary movements it's clear that all of us are in struggle at all times with aspects of ourselves that pull us down and back towards complicity and compliance with the system. It's not one or two deceitful bad apples who in their secret hearts are willing to betray their ideals, their friends, whole movements. Revolutionaries develop out of the social, emotional, and psychological makeup of people created in a dog-eat-dog, me-first system that infiltrates all of psyches. The class struggle goes on not only between classes, but also within oppressed and exploited classes, and within individuals in those classes. The inducements and seductions of the system, the affinities we feel for the system, the attractions of male bonding, white-skin privilege, identification with the oppressor, neo-colonialism, elitism, careerism, are not only bombarding us 24-7, but they live inside us consciously and unconsciously. Unless we sustain and persevere in pretty open struggle and acknowledgment of them, they are going to win out. There were literally millions of people in the 60s who spent time street fighting, engaging in various illegal forms of protest, and certainly tens if not hundreds of thousands who styled themselves revolutionaries. They did not all become snitches, but far too many made their separate peace, found a niche at a non-profit or surrendered in some way to the Empire.

The occasional glaring snitch or traitor like Darby obviously does a lot of damage, but the larger substrate of 'liberalism' that allows people en masse to backslide and sell out is more dangerous, and is the context in which the Darbys operate.--***MN***

At the recent Anarchist Book Fair in Los Angeles, brother Dedon Kamathi of the All-African Peoples Revolutionary Party raised a struggle with anarchists, anti-racists and anti-imperialists of European descent to pay closer attention to, develop fraternal relations and solidarity with, and learn lessons from the struggles heating up in Greece and elsewhere in Europe. ARA has had long-standing connections with anti-fascist forces in Europe, and several members of ARA are now in Greece, learning from, participating in, connecting with and reporting on struggles there. ARA has also solidarized itself with anti-fas in Germany, Russia, and other countries. Here are some pertinent reports and accounts emerging from Greece, Sweden and Russia.—***Editor.***

Insurgent Workers Occupy Labor Bureaucracy Headquarters in Greece

DECLARATION: We will either determine our history ourselves or let it be determined without us. We, manual workers, employees, jobless, temporary workers, local or migrants, are not passive tv-viewers. Since the murder of Alexandros Grigoropoulos on Saturday night we participate in the demonstrations, the clashes with the police, the occupations of the center or the neighborhoods. Time and again we had to leave work and our daily obligations to take the streets with the students, the university students and the other proletarians in struggle.

WE DECIDED TO OCCUPY THE BUILDING OF GSEE

to turn it into a space of free expression and a meeting point of workers.

To disperse the media-touted myth that the workers were and are absent from the clashes, and that the rage of these days was an affair of some 500 "mask-bearers", "hooligans" or some other fairy tale, while on the tv-screens the workers were presented as victims of the clash, while the capitalist crisis in Greece and Worldwide leads to countless layoffs that the media and their managers deal as a "natural phenomenon".

To flay and uncover the role of the trade union bureaucracy in the undermining of the insurrection -- and not only there. GSEE and the entire trade union mechanism that supports it, for decades and decades undermine the struggles, bargain our labor power for crumbs, and perpetuate the system of exploitation and wage slavery. The stance of GSEE last Wednesday is quite telling: GSEE cancelled the programmed strikers' demonstration, stopping at the organization of a brief gathering in Syntagma Square, making simultaneously sure that the people will be dispersed in a hurry from the Square, fearing that they might get infected by the virus of insurrection.

To open up this space for the first time -- as a continuation of the social opening created by the insurrection itself -- a space that has been built by our contributions, a space from which we were excluded. For all these years we trusted our fate to saviors of every kind, and we end up losing our dignity. As workers we have to start assuming our responsibilities, and to stop assigning our hopes to wise leaders or "able" representatives. We have to acquire a voice of our own, to meet up, to talk, to decide, and to act. Against the generalized attack we endure. The creation of collective "grassroots" resistance is the only way.

To propagate the idea of self-organization and solidarity in work places, struggle committees and collective grassroots procedures, abolishing the bureaucrat trade unionists.

All these years we swallowed the misery, the pandering, the violence at work. We became accustomed to counting the crippled and our dead -- the so-called "labor accidents." We became accustomed to ignoring the migrants -- our class brothers -- getting killed. We are tired of living with the anxiety of securing a wage, revenue stamps, and a pension that now feels like a distant dream.

As we struggle not to abandon our lives in the hands of the bosses and the trade union representatives, likewise we will not abandon any arrested insurgent in the hands of the state and the juridical mechanism.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THE DETAINED --
NO CHARGES TO THE ARRESTED
SELF-ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKERS' GENERAL STRIKE
WORKERS' ASSEMBLY IN THE "LIBERATED" BUILDING OF GSEE

Wednesday, 17 December 2008, 18:00 General Assembly of Insurgent Workers

The banner hanging from the occupied building reads as follows:

From labor "accidents" to murders in cold blood, State and Capital kill
No persecution
Immediate release of the arrested
GENERAL STRIKE
Workers' self-organization will become the bosses' grave
General Assembly of Insurgent Workers

Nazis tried to kill Swedish Syndicalist union activists and their child

by SAC's working committee

In November, Nazis firebombed the Cyclops, the autonomous social center in southern Stockholm. Two days later, on the 1st of December, the build up of Nazi activity in Stockholm took another violent turn as Nazis poured in gasoline through the mail slot into the apartment of a young couple and their child, and set it on fire. The couple is active in the Syndicalist union. All three survived. We urge everyone to join the counter demonstration against the Nazi march in Salem, a suburb south of Stockholm this Saturday, 6th of December. If we let the Nazis stand unchallenged we never know whom they'll attack next.

In 1999 Nazis killed the Syndicalist Björn Söderberg. Now two Syndicalists from Stockholm – one of them the former chair of the Stockholm chapter of the Syndicalist union - and their two year old daughter were forced to climb down from the balcony of their third floor apartment when Nazis sat fire to their flat. Half a year ago, our union members were exposed on the Nazi web-site Info-14. The Nazis behind Info-14 are the same people who call the annual Nazi march in Salem.

Just before nine p.m. on Monday night, 1st December 2008, our members heard a splashing sound from the hallway. "I saw someone pour a clear fluid through the mail slot and understood from the scent that it was gasoline", one of them says. "I shouted so loud that they can't have missed it: We have children in here! Only seconds later they lit the fire." In the hall hung the family's winter clothes and in a couple of seconds the fire had spread to the kitchen and the living room. To exit through the front door was impossible. "We had to lower our daughter down to the neighbors' balcony one floor below," our member explains. "We live on the top floor. Had she slipped out of our hands, she would have died." The couple then climbed down the same way. Behind them the fire ravaged all their belongings, memories and plans.

Our members and their daughter miraculously remained unharmed, but it doesn't change the fact that one or several people deliberately and in cold blood tried to take their lives. Our targeted members' union work focused on antiracism and diminishing class divides. For this they were to be punished by death according to the Nazis.

Six months ago the openly Nazi homepage "info14" published names and pictures of our members. The police work from the theory that the deed was politically-motivated, performed by the same offenders who two days earlier burnt down the libertarian socialist cultural center "The Cyclops" in Högdalen. The case is classified as arson. The Nazis behind Info-14 are the same people who run the organization *Salemfonden*, that every year on the first Saturday in December arranges the biggest Nazi march in Northern Europe. "The people arranging the Salem march are not harmless individuals with a slightly dissenting opinion. They are ideologically convinced Nazis, evidently capable of murder in the pursuit of their cause," Ola Brunnström from SAC's working committee states. SAC, the Syndicalists, urges everyone to join in the counter demonstration by the Network Against Racism at 12 o' clock in Salem Center. For information, contact www.sac.se
http://anarkisterna.com/blog/2008/12/03/nazis-tried-to-kill-union-activists-and-their-child/

Russian anti-fa defends self against nazis, faces charges

November 22, two nazi boneheads attacked anarchist anti-fascist activist Yura M. in Vladivostok (Russian Far East). The Nazis met Yura on a bus, recognized him, and knew that he is an active anarchist and antifascist, so after he left the bus they attacked him and hit him a couple of times. Yura used a knife to defend himself and stabbed both of the attackers, who were bigger than him. The Nazis started running away -- one of them soon fell and died, and the other broke both legs jumping off a parapet. Yura called the ambulance and waited until it arrived, when he was arrested by cops. Yura was shocked -- he did not intend to kill anyone.

Yura is an active participant in the anarchist and anti-fascist movement. In summer 2007 he participated in the anti-nuclear protest camp in Angarsk, Irkutsk Region (East Siberia). On July 21, 2007, the camp was violently attacked by Nazis. One activist was murdered (a good friend of Yura, Ilya Borodaenko from Nakhodka near Vladivostok). Yura was one of the few people who were fast enough to resist the attackers in Angarsk, so severely beaten he spent more than two months in a hospital, fighting for his life due to complications which were a result of neglect during first hours of his hospitalization. His health condition still remains weak, and after Angarsk, he got a disability status. But he continued his activities in Vladivostok anyway and got multiple threats from local Nazis.

Yura has played a crucial role in organizing anarchist and anti-fascist movements in the Russian Far East. He set up Pacific Rim Autonomous Action (which later split to Nahodka Autonomous Action and Vladivostok Autonomous Action due to distance between cities, but the Nahodka group dwindled after the death of Ilya). During the last year, Yura grew disillusioned with the federation concept of the organization, and moved more towards insurrection direction of anarchism, and he left Vladivostok Autonomous Action with most of the members of the group. However he stayed on friendly terms with Autonomous Action and participated to internal discussions of the organization. In http://avtonom.org/index.php?nid=2048 you may read (only in Russian) a criticism of the organization he recently wrote. He also kept publishing the local anarchist paper "Udar," back issues of which are available at avtonom.org in PDF format.

Vladivostok is among the Russian cities, where street war between Nazis in other side and anarchists and antifascists in another side is most intense. Some incidents are reported at **http://avtonom.org/index.php?nid=2003** and **http://avtonom.org/index.php?nid=1237**

Yura has now been released from custody, and murder charges changed to "exceeding limits of necessary self-defense." However various costs relating to his case are already 5500 euros, so his family is very much in need of support! You may donate through the bank accounts of ABC-Moscow. They are available at **http://www.avtonom.org/index.php?nid=1912.** Always contact ABC-Moscow by email if you made a donation: **abc-msk@riseup.net**

Outing "Keystone State Skinhead" Nazi in South Philly

by
Members of PA & NJ Anti-Racist Action

On Sun, November 23, 2008, Anti-Racist Action members from Pennsylvania and New Jersey mobilized to South Philadelphia to let the community know about a violent neo-Nazi living in their neighborhood. Douglas Caffarella, of 1430 Porter Street, Philadelphia, was exposed as a member of the Keystone State Skinheads, a statewide Pennsylvania gang of neo-Nazis who are currently attempting to build a presence in Philadelphia.

Caffarella is currently facing multiple weapons and assault charges after an assault outside of McCusker's Tavern on 17th and Shunk Streets. The target of the attack – a potential KSS recruit -- sustained multiple fractures and cuts to his face, along with a broken nose. Remember, this is someone they were trying to recruit!

While flyering, anti-fascists were confronted by several people who knew Caffarella. A person who claimed to his childhood friend said "He can't be a Nazi - he has *A* black friend," going on to say that people in the neighborhood don't care about Caffarella's white power tattoos and shaved head. He and another friend of Caffarella's attempted to take down all the flyers posted; fortunately, in the busiest areas someone glued the flyers down, so good luck with that!

Caffarella's brother-in-law was also seen tearing down flyers and was so enraged when he saw the neighborhood blanketed with Doug's face he confronted the ARA members, threatening to kill them if they came back to the 1400 block of Porter Street. "If you guys come back, someone's going to get shot. I'll blaze you. I've got six shots for you."

This brother-in-law also denied Doug's involvement with neo-Nazi groups. It seems not only is Caffarella too much of a coward to confront Anti-Racist Action directly, instead sending his friends and family to do so, but he is obviously too much of a coward to be honest with those friends and family about his neo-Nazi politics.

We will be back to Caffarella's neighborhood in the very near future. In the meantime, we will continue publicly outing all of the other Philadelphia members of the Keystone State Skinheads.

BASH THE FASH!

Opposing the Tyler TX "National Socialist Movement" rally

by Bill, Houston ARA

ARA brought about 25-30 people from Austin and Houston, and Centex had some local contacts who organized leading up to it. In all, our group was around 100. The NSM had ten people who stayed rooted to their spot, behind police tape on the steps at the rear entrance of the city hall. They had originally intended to march, but didn't even try.

They had one dinky megaphone, we had two big megaphones and one small one, and lots more people. Folks lined up facing off the nazis and drowned them out with chants, I'd say at its peak, we were at about 150. The whole time we never let up on the noise, you couldn't hear anything the NSM said. A few shady looking gents (shaved heads, long goatees, motorcycle shirts with iron cross motifs) showed up before the NSM got there and were immediately surrounded by antifa, they ended up denying that they were racist and even wore some anti-racist stickers we gave them on their shirts... I still think they were sympathizers but they stayed on the sidelines and offered not one shred of vocal support. And they couldn't hear shit.

No "hands-on dialogue" with the fash but also no arrests and I think everyone on both sides left with the understanding that the NSM had just been punk'd.

pictures: **http://spotted. tylerpaper. com/photos/index. php?id=2298528**

Here's what some Nazi wrote about the rally;
"The two-hour rally, timed to coincide with the Missouri rally, was intended to focus primarily on illegal immigration. But approximately 100 counter-protesters showed up to confront the NSM, closing Spring Avenue from Ferguson to East Erwin Streets. Many of the counter-protestors were Anti-Racist Action (ARA) anarchist scum, considered the sworn enemies of White activists. These cowards cover their faces with bandannas during rallies, although it's more for image rather than identity protection. However, getting only 10 people to a rally can marginalize a group, particularly when queers and queer-enablers can put 2,000 on the street in Los Angeles, or 3,500 on the street in Salt Lake City. We can get away with 50 people at a pro-White rally, but even though they get good media publicity, ten is just too few and the antis will laugh at us. Perhaps the NSM should concentrate on one rally at a time until it builds its strength up more."

the antis will laugh at us.. oh, we did.

And a comment on their page about the rally;

"I went to see the rally hoping to hear some good stuff, but it was sad to see that the NSM could only muster 10 people while there had to be 200 college students in bright clothes yelling for what they believed in. After five minutes of not being able to hear you (and of seeing one of the younger members crying you know the larger kind of pink guy on the far right) I realized that what you stand for is pointless and went to chant "DIE NAZI SCUM" with the rest of em. Seriously...ya'll need some better PR if a rag-tag group of college students can upstage you at your own rally...Of course I wouldn't call it a rally. It was more like they slaughtered you with peaceful words and common sense. Even Hitler, Hemmler, and Menegle were shaking their heads yesterday and ya'll just need to give up. People don't want to hear hatespeech anymore. YOU LOST THE DAMN WAR SO GET OVER IT!"

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK
FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) WE GO WHERE THEY GO:
Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US:
This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS:
In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a free classless society.
WE INTEND TO WIN!

Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror
(ARA-LA/PART)*POBOX 1055*CULVERCITY CA 90232*310-495-0299
antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com*www.antiracistaction.us

Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education needs your help!
Printing costs just went up 8%. Dozens of new prisoners ask to get free subs every month. Racist, statist and Zionist violence is increasing. **What can you do?** We rely entirely on subscriptions and reader donations to publish. **TTT** is now in its 22nd year, distributing thousands of copies free to prisoners, anti-racists and other concerned people without partisan subsidy, government funds or corporate grants. But we can't continue without you, the reader, to help us keep printing hard-hitting anti-racist, anti-colonialist analysis. Prisoners -let us know ASAP of address changes, and try to get people on the outside to subscribe. If you like what you're reading –
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Land and Freedom:
Indigenous Communities in Oaxaca Fight HIV and Repression

by Suzy Subways

The US has twice the HIV prevalence of Mexico, so it isn't surprising that the need to cross the border for work has increased Mexican communities' vulnerability to HIV. But the reasons for HIV's increase in some places in Mexico – indigenous, rural communities far from the border – may not be so obvious. "The state of Oaxaca has the highest HIV rate in Southeastern Mexico," Oaxacan queer activist Leonardo Tlahui says. "One of the primary factors is immigration. The Mixteco people [one of Oaxaca's largest indigenous groups] have a high population of immigrants to the US." He explains that migrating to a country with double the HIV rate makes immigrants more vulnerable to HIV, and that increased vulnerability is then shared with their home communities since most immigrants return to Oaxaca.

Half a million indigenous people from Oaxaca (roughly 1/7 of the state's population) live in the US, according to Rufino Dominguez, a founder of the Binational Front of Indigenous Organizations (FIOB) in Oaxaca. Interviewed by David Bacon for a Truthout.org article called "The Right to Stay Home," Dominquez said, "There are no jobs here, and NAFTA made the price of corn so low that it's not economically possible to plant a crop anymore. We come to the US to work because we can't get a price for our product at home. There's no alternative."

Treaties and Lovers

Two years after the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) launched its 1994 offensive in the state of Chiapas as NAFTA was implemented, the EZLN won a potential victory for indigenous land rights with the San Andres Accords, an agreement it negotiated with the Mexican government. But in 2002, the government gutted the accords, and now, indigenous activists say that large corporations are buying their peoples' land. As more young people come to the US to work and send money home, families are separated for years at a time, and individuals far from their partners become vulnerable to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

For a new study called "Migration and ruralization of AIDS: reports on vulnerability of indigenous communities in Mexico," researchers from Mexico and CA interviewed migrant workers and indigenous women in poor rural areas. Before a young man leaves as a teen, the researchers report, he often partners with a girl who is also too young for legal marriage and hopes for pregnancy so that she will remain faithful while he is away. Some of the women said that, although they understand the likelihood that migrants have other sexual partners, it's very difficult to ask the men to use condoms when they return. It doesn't help that Oaxaca's archbishop condemns the use of condoms to prevent HIV.

One Zapoteca woman in Oaxaca, 23, told researchers, "I'm here with my in-laws while my husband is in the US, and he sees that … they pick up other women. Now it's long that my husband hasn't come, like five years. He already entered [the US] for six years [before]…When he returns, he comes looking for another pregnancy."

In a 2008 presentation at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) about HIV risk behaviors of Mexican migrant workers, Melissa Sanchez and other researchers reported that migrants, often struggling with unsafe working and living conditions, generally had more sex partners while in the U.S., and had more sex while using drugs or alcohol. A related study found that migrant men in California were 13 times more likely to have sex with another man than they were before leaving Mexico. Condom use increased while away from home, but migrants were unlikely to get tested for HIV for fear of deportation.

Sanchez also told TheBody.com that young men are being targeted for sex work at day-labor pick-up sites where they wait for construction work. "There are actually Web sites developed now where they give tips to people who want to approach Mexican-migrant, job-pick-up-site workers and actually recruit them," Sanchez said. "They are told, 'Go after three o'clock, when there is a clear indication that there is no work coming for the day.' They target young, young men, thinking, 'Well, they're going to be more naïve, they're perhaps more desperate to make some money given that they're not going to get a landscape job during the day.'"

Corruption and Repression in Oaxaca

In 2001, the Frente Común Contra el SIDA (Common Front Against AIDS), a community organization in Oaxaca, began buying bus tickets for people living with HIV in the countryside to see their doctors at the clinic of COESIDA, the state AIDS council, in Oaxaca City. While meeting this need, activists got to know the people they were serving. The stories they heard – many of the people weren't getting their medication regularly, were told to come back next month for medicine, or were given only one or two anti-retrovirals rather than the standard combination of three – shocked the activists. According to the Frente's website, this revelation set in motion a clash with COESIDA that culminated in the Frente's closure amid threats and violence by government thugs in 2006.

First, the Frente went to the press in 2001 with the information they had gathered about substandard HIV treatment at the clinic. Next, they negotiated with COESIDA officials, who allowed the activists to conduct a more formal survey. For one month – in March 2002 – the Frente interviewed each patient who came to the clinic. The results were astonishing: Of 145 patients, 33 weren't receiving any medication, and 20 were given only two antiretrovirals, which could do more harm than none -- by fostering drug resistance. Thirty-one patients opted out of the survey. While it's possible that some may not have needed medication, it's more likely that impoverished people from rural areas would come to the city for treatment only if they were very sick.

At their next meeting with the Frente, COESIDA officials revealed enough boxes of medications to treat 50 more people. After this victory, the Frente continued its work, publicly criticizing the under-reporting of rapidly increasing AIDS cases in rural areas where indigenous peoples live – and where the official HIV rates are the lowest. Leonardo Tlahui, a founder of Oaxaca's Nancy Cardenas Sexual Diversity Collective and an organizer with the Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca (APPO), explains, "There are no resources for our culture, for health, for housing…. All the budgeted money that comes in to serve people with HIV, mostly indigenous people, is lost. The indigenous people who are HIV positive in Oaxaca are invisible, even though more than ten years ago there was an armed uprising in Chiapas." Under the current governor, Tlahui says, the situation has only become worse. "In this period, we have a pseudo-governor of Oaxaca, a man named Ulises Ruiz," he says. "We're asking for his removal because he does not know how to govern the state, because he is a repressor, he has sent many people to prison. We have many dead and disappeared people. We demand justice."

Bill Wolf, an artist from San Francisco who lived in Oaxaca and had worked with the Frente since 1995, took his own life earlier this year after a long struggle with lung cancer. Excerpts from his journals, available in English on the Frente's website, describe the depth of corruption in Oaxaca's government. In Jan. 2007, he wrote, "The current Secretary of Public Health, appointed by Ruiz, in one short year has become one of the wealthiest men in Oaxaca, recently buying an enormous mansion…. The director of COESIDA, Gabriela Velàsquez, is the wife of the largest contributor to the political campaigns of both the ex-governor and current governor."

In June 2006, teachers on strike occupied Oaxaca City's central plaza. They held it for seven months with the support of APPO, which was formed during the uprising by representatives of Oaxaca's 17 distinct indigenous peoples, many of the 400 majority-indigenous municipalities, and hundreds of grassroots organizations, all demanding the removal of Ruiz. Fifty-six movement leaders were assassinated during the government crackdown on the uprising that year.

AIDS activist Wolf and other Oaxaca artists built a "Day of the Dead Altar" on November 1, 2006, to honor 56 activists assassinated by the government and paramilitaries in the previous year. The sign is a play on Oaxaca Governor Ulises Ruiz's slogan, "Giving our face to the nation." The slain activists are portrayed rising from their graves. "Five indigenous leaders were killed on the very weekend we received the final threat from COESIDA," wrote Wolf, who was also an APPO supporter. "We later met and it was agreed I would sign a document with the government promising to have no part in the national [AIDS] convention, to cease activities concerning HIV/AIDS in Oaxaca, to not speak with the media, and to not mention the above 'incident.'"

The "incident" Wolf mentions is described in a quote from fellow expatriate Stan Gotlieb's blog: "They showed up at Condón Mania, the highly successful store [run by the Frente] that sells condoms at just enough over cost to stay in business. They gave a little demonstration by smashing the windshield on one of the worker's car. They gave everyone some advice about how to avoid these kinds of visits in the future...."

Visions of Survival and Resistance

Despite the repression by Oaxaca's government, its indigenous communities are creating new ways to survive and resist – with inspiration from their historical roots. Zapoteca AIDS activist Amaranta Gómez Regalado's essay "Transcending" offers a glimpse of her hometown, Juchitán, Oaxaca, and its traditional embrace of muxhe, whose identity she defines as "people who are born a man and grow up with the generic identity of a woman; this is an identity not unlike a gay or transgender identity, but with truly unique characteristics." Muxhes like Gómez have traditionally been embroiderers, seamstresses, and fish-sellers, she writes. And now, they are community leaders, especially in the AIDS movement.

"In 1995, a group of women and muxhes formed [Juchitán's] first civil HIV/AIDS organization, called Gunaxhii Guendanabani (Love for Life), and in 1997 the muxhe community created other sources of civil movement for the promotion of sexual rights and the prevention of HIV/AIDS, like Colectivo Binni Laanu (Our People) and the group Las Intrépidas Contra el Sida (Fearlessly Against AIDS)," Gómez writes. She has become a leader in the international movement against HIV in indigenous communities." ["Transcending" is available in English and Spanish on the Internet.]

The Binational Front of Indigenous Organizations (FIOB) works with farmers in Oaxaca who are exploring new food crops to replace corn and beans, so that they can support themselves on their land and make the basic human right they speak of as el derecho de no migrar – the right not to migrate – a real option in people's lives. In "The Right to Stay Home," David Bacon writes, "Over the years, FIOB has organized women weavers in Juxtlahuaca, helping them sell their textiles and garments through its chapters in California. It set up a union for rural taxis, both to help farming families get from Juxtlahuaca to the tiny towns in the surrounding hills, and to provide jobs for drivers. Artisan co-ops make traditional products, helped by a co-operative loan fund."

Human Rights for Indigenous Peoples

In a conversation at the Indigenous Peoples' networking zone in the Global Village area of the 17th International AIDS Conference in Mexico City in August, Leonardo Tlahui spoke about the role of APPO in the Mexican AIDS movement. "Part of being here in the Global Village is to demand respect for the human rights of all indigenous peoples, and of those of us who are in favor of justice in the state," he said. "We use all the possible forums where we can get space to outreach about this. They didn't want to open up a space for APPO, because they thought we were going to talk about guerrilla war and political issues. In the APPO, we also work on health and security issues and many policies that we want applied in Oaxaca. But we are closed from doing this. We have a thirst for information, but they don't want to inform us."

Amaranta Gómez closes "Transcending" in the spirit of nurturing her community's heritage as a source of strength in the face of threats to its survival. "It is difficult to explain everything about what it is like to be a muxhe from Juchitán in this small article, however I hope that this brief look at our vision of the world has enlightened some," she writes. "A vision which is not exempt from the social, economic, political and cultural changes taking place in Mexico, yet it has the goal of continuing to conserve the social and cultural harmony that has existed throughout the years and has allowed for different identities, like that of the muxhe, to flourish and be expressed. This goal becomes even bigger when those from the outside look at Juchitán as a society with its own reality that resists disappearing."

This article is reprinted with permission from *Solidarity Project*, the online magazine of the Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP), www.champnetwork.org

REMARKS TO THE 7th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM AGAINST ISOLATION

by
Herman Bell, December 2008

When imprisoned, and placed in an isolation unit, at some point you begin to live inside yourself, assessing and measuring how you are doing against the moment-to-moment, day-to-day challenges that you are confronted by to gauge how well you are getting on. Even though we may spend countless years in prison, little if anything ever changes there. This might sound contradictory: in our minds we can become inured to the harshest conditions as a natural survival instinct. However in reality, they remain just as agonizing. How we deal with them, process them, interact with them in our mind largely determines the change we perceive around us and inside ourselves.

Isolation bears two recognizable features: one is introspection, the other is torture. It brings out the worst in us and the best in us; regardless, we must somehow still make it through the day. And in the course of that day, and every day, we must fight our demons, real and imagined. The real ones are plain enough to see. They turn the keys. (But not all the turn-keys are bad, just most of them. I like to think that the decent ones were well brought up by their parents. The bad ones, perhaps, didn't receive all they thought they should from their parents and others, and therefore will always feel the world owes them something and that meantime they can do whatever they want. Controlling for greed and ideology -- how else do we explain the pathology of man's inhumanity to man?)

Isolation means you are cut off from the rest of the world, save for the occasional life-line that finds its way to you in the form of a visit, a letter, and the occasional headline on a discarded newspaper that you might glimpse as you pass it by. Your world is greatly reduced. Fresh air, sunlight, food, keeping your body and clothes clean -- the things you once took for granted -- take on new importance in your life.

Under these reduced circumstances, you become so sucked into yourself that an hour feels like a day has gone by, a day feels like a week, and a week like a month. You lose a sense of time; you no longer care whether it's day or night; you hallucinate; you hyperventilate. You know your scene has to change, nothing lasts forever. Your survival instincts keep you holding on. And suddenly the unexpected melodic sound of jangling keys break through the cocoon that time and isolation had woven around you. Then you wonder had all that been a dream.

Isolation transposes our reality; physical torture shapes it. Physical torture is a ravening beast that has slipped its bounds from Hell to feast upon the soul of humanity. It's the Big Bad Wolf threatening the Three Little Pigs. It's the Bogeyman lurking in the woods we heard so much about, coming to get us. It's our worst nightmare rattling a locked door, straining mightily to get at us. It's Abu-Ghraib; it's Guantanamo; it's the CIA's Extraordinary Rendition; it's the screams of prisoners in U.S. police stations. It's the cries of the torn, the battered, the tormented victims of this ravenous beast that rears its ugly head to feast on pried fingernails; electrically charred genitalia, ear lobes, and human breasts; chased down with a liter of water-boarding, stress-positions, extremes of hot and cold temperatures; and garnished with absolute silence and jarring noise. All done to preserve an antiquated political and economic system that deprives the many of their needs and serves the few in their greed. Outrage against this social practice should know no bounds; how can we not fight to end it?! Let us send the beast and its minions back to where they belong.

Note: Herman Bell is one of the New York 3, and currently facing trial in San Francisco as one of the SF8. Please support these brothers by sending a donation. Make checks payable to CDHR/Agape and mail to the address below or donate on line at
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INHERITING AN EMPIRE

[column written 12/20/08 and copyright (c) 2008 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

When Barack Hussein Obama takes the oath of office, he will receive more than the reins to the executive office of the U.S. government; he will inherit the rulership of empire, one that no American consciously voted for. As if the highest political office in a nation of over 300 million people wasn't enough, capitals all around the world are immediately impacted by what happens in Washington.

In a sense, the U.S. inherited its imperial role after the weakening and decline of the British Empire at the close of the so-called Second World War (1941-194). This was the logical result of the losses of war, as well as the rebellion of British colonies in Africa and Asia, which struggled for national independence. In many places where Britain withdrew, the U.S. advanced.

Because the war largely avoided American territory, the U.S. was free to use its excess resources to emerge as the strongest and wealthiest survivor of the ashes of war. Now the U.S. freely interferes with nations across the globe. Through its intelligence services, its domination of the World Bank, and the military, it removes leaders, buys off other leaders, seduces critics abroad, and, using the media as it did on Iraq, wages unjust wars at will.

Part of this is a kind of global management program that claims to benefit America; part is also the abuse of great power to achieve desired ends, often the ends desired by the corporate sector. This has led leaders to speak of democracy while supporting a train of dictators from one end of the earth to the other.

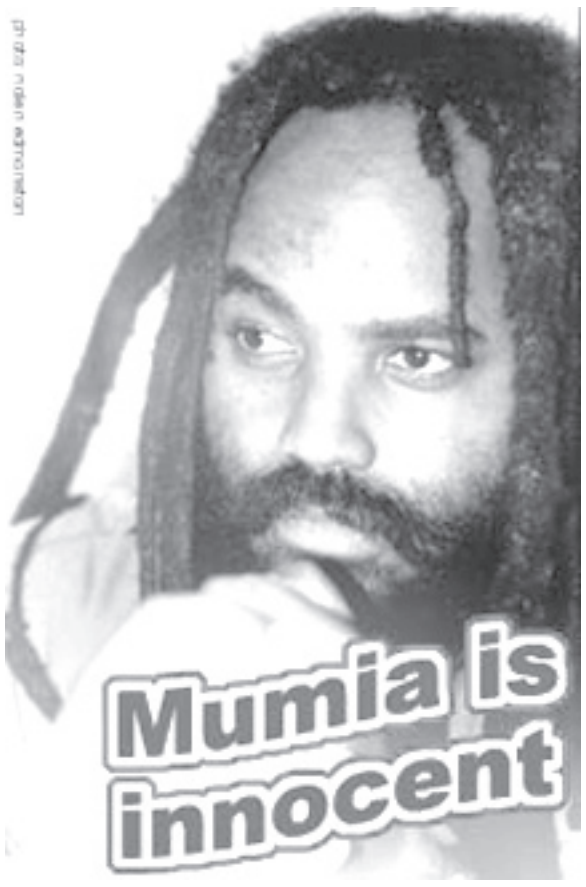
This is the system that Obama will inherit. Will he endeavor to change it, or will he try to strengthen it? Time will tell.

Over 2,000 years ago, an African took the throne of the Roman Empire. He ruled for some 18 years, and waged wars on behalf of Rome. His name was Septimius Severus, and he was born in what is today Libya, in North Africa. And while his reign brought wealth, power and status to his family and his home province, he did not change Rome so much as Rome changed him.

His power went to extend empire, not to change it. His son, Caracalla, ruled the Empire after him and he extended Roman citizenship to the provincial freemen, but he's also remembered for a reign of cruelty.

What Rome taught us all is that for an empire to be born, a republic must die.

When change next comes, what form will it take?



Mumia is in his final appeal process to the U.S. Supreme Court -Act now to free him!
Audio of most of Mumia's essays are at: **http://www.prisonradio.org**
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[Check out Mumia's latest: WE WANT FREEDOM: A Life in the Black Panther Party, from South End Press, **www.southendpress.org**, 1-800-533-8478.

Prisoner Andre Jacobs Awarded $185,000 in Lawsuit Against DOC Staff

Andre Jacobs, a captive of SCI Fayette in the PA DOC, was awarded $185,000 in compensatory damages by a jury today for violations of his constitutional rights while being held in the Long Term Segregation Unit in SCI Pittsburgh in 2003.

Andre represented himself at trial, and prevailed despite being forced to wear a remote-controlled electro-shock stun belt throughout that was controlled by DOC staff. Two of Andre's witnesses testified to Judge Conti that prison guards working the Special Management Unit (SMU) in Camp Hill threatened them for their participation in the case, with both testifying that C/O Uler assaulted one of the witnesses.

In the first of three upcoming jury trials (the other two are scheduled for January and February) in Federal Court, Mr. Jacobs out-lawyered the state's attorneys throughout, eventually winning guilty verdicts against Lt. Gregory Giddens, ex-Captain Thomas McConnel, and Superintendent's Assistant Carol Scire.

Check the Post-Gazette for an article: http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08329/930437-100.stm And don't believe the hype: Andre never broke the hand of a federal marshall, but rather was beaten unconscious by federal marshalls while in cuffs and shackles after he violated a direct order not to speak by having the criminal audacity to tell his grandmother, Elizabeth, that he loved her. To cover up their criminal assault they charged Andre with assault under federal statutes.

Check the Trib for a better article, although it repeats the same official slander:
http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregion/s_599980.html
Human Rights Coalition - FedUp! Chapter
5125 Penn Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412-361-3022 xt.4 hrcfedup@gmail.com
www.thomasmertoncenter.org/fedup/

In Memoriam:

Sister Somayah Kambui also known as Herowese 'Peaches' Moore, and Queen Negus -- an original member of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense in Los Angeles, participant in the Free Breakfast for School Children program, survivor of the LAPD SWAT attack on the BPP along with Geronimo ji-Jaga, founder of Crescent Alliance for Self-help for Sickle Cell, supporter of the SF8 and leader of medical marijuana movement.

The Border Crossed Us

You can't deal with the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan unless you deal with the US war with Mexico. Oh, have you forgotten the US war of aggression against its neighbor? You can't understand U.S. history or change its reality without grappling with the U.S. theft in 1846 of almost half Mexico's territory.

People at the time understood how pivotal the annexation of Texas and the subsequent invasion and conquest of northern Mexico was. Thoreau went to jail rather than pay the war tax imposed to finance the aggression, understanding it as a war to expand slavery. "The question," as he maintained to Emerson, was not what Thoreau was doing in jail, but what Ralph was "doing out there." Not enough to stop the war, apparently. Pres. Polk didn't ask Congress to declare war, as the Constitution theoretically required, but simply ordered troops into Mexican-claimed territory in order to provoke an incident justifying war. Then he called for an act recognizing that a state of war existed. Texas had been annexed not by international treaty but by a joint resolution of the House and Senate. Polk had his mind set on the conquest of California, which Mexico refused to sell, even before his inauguration. He had promised the Texans his support for annexation if they would claim the Rio Grande as their border, then based the US claim on the Texans' "pre-existing" claim. During his one term in Congress, Abraham Lincoln, whom Obama likes to invoke, condemned the imperial arrogance of Polk in launching the war. Lincoln saw through the pretext for the war – that Mexican forces had attacked the U.S. upon its own soil – as a mask on naked aggression. "It is a fact, that the US Army, in marching to the Rio Grande, marched into a peaceful Mexican settlement, and frightened the inhabitants from their homes and their crops," Lincoln declared. "That soil was not ours; Congress did not annex it." Lincoln voted for a resolution that declared the war unnecessary and accused Polk of violating the Constitution. His remarks are quite prophetic. "Allow the President to invade a neighboring nation whenever he shall deem it necessary to repel an invasion, and you allow him to do so whenever he may choose to say he deems it necessary. Study to see if you can fix any limit to his power, after having given him so much as you propose."

Lincoln continued, "The provision of the Constitution giving the war-making power to Congress was dictated by the following: kings had always been impoverishing their people in wars, pretending the good of the people was the object. But your view places our President where kings have always stood." Yet Lincoln didn't support legislation that would have prohibited acquiring territory from Mexico as part of a peace settlement. All too familiarly now, once the war was on, much of Congress and the country closed ranks behind the President and the war. Lincoln went on to vote for the appropriations necessary to finance the aggression, declaring that he felt bound to support U.S. troops in the field. This familiar excuse is evergreen, and particularly ironic because hundreds of said troops in fact deserted the U.S. Army deep inside Mexican territory, in the face of the highest casualty rates of any U.S. war, more than 150 of every 1000 soldiers.

Less scandalous but more ominous than Lincoln's opportunistic reversal on the war was the view of foreign correspondent and economic philosopher Karl Marx. Marx and his partner Engels felt that a Yankee victory over Mexico, by placing the resources of the territory under a more productive, efficient, Protestant and capitalist management, would hasten the arrival of socialism through the more rapid development of the means and relations of production. Engels wrote, in a polemic against anarchists: "Will Bakunin accuse the Americans of a 'war of conquest,' which, although it deals with a severe blow to his theory based on 'justice and humanity,' was nevertheless waged wholly and solely in the interest of civilization? Or is it perhaps unfortunate that splendid California has been taken away from the lazy Mexicans, who could not do anything with it? ...The energetic Yankees, by rapid exploitation of the California gold mines, will increase the means of circulation. In a few years [they] will concentrate a dense population and extensive trade at the most suitable places on the coast of the Pacific Ocean, create large cities, open up communications by steamship, construct a railway from New York to San Francisco, for the first time really open the Pacific Ocean to civilization, and for the third time in history give ... world trade a new direction. The 'independence' of a few Spanish Californians and Texans may suffer because of it; in some places 'justice' and other moral principles may be violated; but what does that matter to such facts of world-historic significance?" So, the Mexican War set the precedent for an immoral calculus inside the heart of "socialism," predicated on a prejudice for "progress" and "development," which actually favored empire and centralization of power. That laid the basis for the Bolsheviks to maintain the Czarist empire; for the French left to defend colonial wars in Algeria and Indochina; and for the Communist Party USA to declare that the imposition of "commonwealth" status on Puerto Rico resolved the issue of colonialism and made independence unnecessary.

The time for a thoroughgoing rectification is here. The basis of resisting wars of occupation, whether in Palestine, Iraq or Afghanistan, must be an uncompromising and consistent anti-colonialism. We will never defeat the war machine unless we begin the process of decolonization within the belly of the beast.--***Editor***

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TURNING THE TIDE

End All Wars of Occupation!

FREE THE LAND!

In this Issue: The Fundamentals of the Economy Are Unsound
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The Fundamentals of the Economy Are Unsound

by
Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***

First, the good news. The on-going global economic meltdown – in which every one of the "G20" countries has reduced its economic output except China, which is likely not far behind – has probably bought the planet a little time on the road to polar ice-cap meltdown. This is no small favor. The deepening depression is doing what the Kyoto Protocol couldn't – reducing the carbon emissions of the advanced industrial countries. On the political-logistical front, the current crisis may deter, or at least defer, the planned assault by US imperialism on China. It may even increase the likelihood that the US Empire chooses to operate as gendarmes and junior partners to the Chinese, rather than to opt for liquidation and genocide of their advancing Asian adversary.

Furthermore, the evaporation of wealth that is taking place is a process in which the losers' losses are not transferred on another set of books into gains by winners, but simply disappear. This is doing a lot to expose the emperor's nudity even to the willfully blind, and to shake the faith of even the most trusting acolytes of the moneychangers in the temple. The absolute irrationality of capitalism/colonialism is being exposed once again for all to see. This tremendous object lesson by reality tremendously magnifies the heretofore puny efforts by critics and opponents of capitalism/colonialism to sharpen the irreconcilable contradiction between the Empire and the people it exploits and oppresses, and to fan the flames of resistance.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We must seize the time to deepen people's visceral understanding of the illegitimacy of the social, political and economic system of colonial conquest and private expropriation of human creativity and the planet itself. We must build the organizational connections, conscious solidarity, and confidence in our own capacity that are necessary for the colonized and exploited to break free from the oppressor and build a new way of life.

However, the crisis of capitalism/colonialism also poses great dangers and punishing costs. The Empire continues to wage class/colonial war by every means in its power to place the burden of the crisis on those it exploits and oppresses. The bailouts, the cutbacks in education, health-care, social services, the foreclosures and evictions, the vast increase of public indebtedness to refinance the largest banks, brokers and insurance companies, all represent a very real transfer of real wealth to finance capital, the imposition of a new round of austerity. The full force of state repression necessary to enforce such measures is being prepared.

The Obama administration is normalizing the colonial wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and all the attendant violations of human rights, initiated under Bush. Has anyone in Congress or the White House, or even the ACLU, breathed a word about abolishing the USA PATRIOT Act or the Department of Homeland Security since Obama took office? Democrats in the House and Senate during this brief Democratic presidential tenure have already outdone either the Republican or Democratic Congresses under Bush in funding war, repression and Wall Street. As the French say, "*Plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose"* – The more things "change," the more they are the same thing.

Yet despite his heroic services to the Empire, Obama's presidency has unleashed the floodgates of a new round of naked white supremacy and "nativist" reaction. Retail fascists of all descriptions have gotten a new lease on life as "dissidents." Racist violence by state agents (police, ICE and the military) is reinforced by similar acts by anti-immigrant, anti-gay, anti-abortion, anti-Arab/Muslim, and anti-Black forces who think the state is not doing enough. They seek to push themselves to the head of a "populist" reaction to the futility of the economic recovery measures being undertaken, by scapegoating people of color and "liberals" (AKA "socialists") for the ills of the Empire.

Finally, the unparalleled opportunity for authentically revolutionary resistance and social and economic transformation presented by the current crisis has dropped into the lap of a movement in the U.S. that is ill prepared to take advantage of it. A current generation is disjointed from the lessons of previous freedom fighters. This is a result of COINTELPRO, of the internal weaknesses of those previous struggles, and of the survival of wrongheaded nostrums that hamper strategic action. They were wrong when first formulated over a century ago and are even less well founded in terms of today's realities. Capitalism will not fall of its own internal contradictions, nor will a new, classless society emerge naturally and automatically from the ruins of the old. If we are to topple and replace the current system, we must understand its true nature and the complicity with it even of those whom it oppresses and exploits.

Free the Land and Your Ass Will Follow

What does the current crisis help us understand about the true nature of this system? First of all, it is no accident that the economic collapse developed and spread out of the real estate sector in the U.S. The transformation of land (that is, of nature) into capital, and of habitation into a commodity, through private expropriation of the commons and its extension from Europe around the globe through (settler) colonialism is at the base of the system we call capitalism. Ultimately, the empire is a house of cards based on the illegitimacy of its theft of the land.

The challenge to the Empire's title to the land raised by the Hawaiians, the Mohawk, the peoples of Africa, the Aboriginal Australians and all other indigenous peoples undermines the concepts of private ownership of land and of Empire-state national boundaries. It exposes the theft and fraud on which the edifice of mortgage debt, credit default swaps and derivatives rested and ultimately collapsed.

Capitalism: Vampire with Bulimia

Second, the ever-greater concentration and centralization of wealth in the form of Capital (the crystallization of a social relationship between the exploiter and the exploited, the oppressor and the oppressed) could not transcend the inherent contradiction at the heart of the production system of capital. Capitalism requires endless growth, yet it cannot grow itself out of the contradiction of the private expropriation of the collective creative power of humanity. The more actual human labor and knowledge is embedded into capital, the less the rate of profit that can be extracted from that accumulation, even through imperial "super-exploitation." However, this does not mean that capitalism will collapse from its inherent contradictions.

It means that capitalism and the class system that emerges from it must inevitably and periodically purge themselves, just as the system had previously gorged itself, by ***extinguishing*** vast amounts of the accumulated capital. Frequently this is done through war, and periodically it is done through economic contraction. That's why the current obliteration of trillions of dollars of capital may be serving to forestall the military plans the Empire had been developing for the "destructive reduction of excess capacity" through war on China.

But we should not confuse the extinguishing of capital with the extinction of capitalism.

Whether in boom or in bust, capitalist colonialism entails the impoverishment and immiseration of the masses of people to extract the wealth of the rulers. The last decades have seen the incorporation and recolonization of the growing global population, including the billions of people in China, India and elsewhere in Asia. Along with this has come the looting of the social capital of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, as well as China, India and Africa. These have resulted in levels of capital accumulation unparalleled in human history. This has now in turn precipitated an equally vast and extremely steep economic contraction.

It should not surprise us that just as in post-Soviet Eastern Europe, both the accumulation and the contraction entail the elimination of the life savings and social security of hundreds of millions of people. Based on that experience, we can predict a near-genocidal reduction in life expectancy in both the metropoles and the periphery of the Empire.

The armed power of the state carried out the expropriation of the lands and conquests of the peoples on which the production system is based, and enforces the on-going social relationship that allows for the extraction of wealth from economic growth. How long will the power of the state enforce the continuing extraction and accumulation of wealth from economic contraction (which may involve fascist or totalitarian methods of rule as it did during the Great Depression)? ***Until and unless*** the forces of liberation can extract the land, and the people can extract ourselves, from that system, and smash that state apparatus of coercion.

Doing so requires a fundamental transformation in consciousness among the colonized, oppressed and exploited people – mental, spiritual and emotional decolonization. Identification with the oppressor must be replaced with conscious solidarity among working and subjugated peoples. Acceptance of the paradigm of natural resources, domination of nature, and endless growth must be shattered. It must be replaced with a holistic symbiotic relationship of humans with the rest of the natural order in an ecological economics based on a sustainable and reciprocal relationship of replenishment. Respect for the water cycle, the cycle of life, the subtle balance of nature in which all sustain all in a mutually beneficial manner must replace the "dog-eat-dog" mentality of capitalism.

Rush Limbaugh to the contrary, Obama is no socialist. But neither are most self-proclaimed socialists. The capitalist market offers no real solution for environmental devastation through its "cap and trade" mechanisms that price the "right" to pollute.

But neither does a socialism that simply tries to add a factor for the cost of pollution into the equations of "value" based strictly on labor power. Doing so simply accepts and internalizes the Empire's capitalist conception of land, nature, as a factor of production. The biosphere, the soil, are both the products of and the substrate for life. They are, as the credit card advertisement has it, priceless. The land, no more than the air, the water or the sun, cannot be privatized or socialized as a factor of production. To do so simply sustains the capitalist and colonialist alienation of humanity from the rest of nature, and thus inevitably from its own creativity.

A socialism that predicates itself merely on the more equitable distribution of an ever-growing productivity is doomed to failure. It will be stillborn, incapable of uprooting Empire and Capital. Hopefully, the current lessons the Empire is teaching us will hasten the birth of a new paradigm of economic transformation from below, as people begin to build a new way of life in the rubble of the old. Our economic and interpersonal transformations will thus help initiate a process of physical and political decolonization in a positive feedback loop towards a way of life that restores the planet and allows for future generations to live sustainably in peace.

Comments and responses are welcome!

Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education needs your help!

Postal and printing costs are up. Dozens of new prisoners ask to get free subs every month. Friends of ARA-LA/PART are either in prison, like General T.A.C.O./ Wolverine Shakur of the Black Riders Liberation Party, or facing prosecution for anti-fascist political activity. We have had to switch from bi-monthly to quarterly publication because of a lack of sufficient funds and staffing. **What can you do?**

We rely entirely on subscriptions and reader donations to publish. We've been coming out for 21 years, distributing thousands of copies free to prisoners, anti-racists and other concerned people without partisan subsidy, government funds or corporate grants. We depend entirely on you, the reader, to keep printing hard-hitting anti-racist, anti-colonialist analysis. If you like what you're reading –

Don't delay -- Subscribe today: $18 individual/$28 institutional or international annual subscription (for 6 issues)

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Beyond Chris & Rihanna

A Females United For Action statement by Alex Pates (age 15) and Ansheera Ace Hilliard (age 17)

As a Black woman/feminist, I must look about me with shocked anger, at the endless waste, suffocation of my sisters; the bitter suffering of hundreds of thousands of women who are the sole parents, the mothers of hundreds of thousands of children, women trapped by demeaning, lowest-paying occupations, the unemployed, the bullied, beaten, battered, the ridiculed, slandered, raped, and the sterilized, the lost millions and multi-millions of beautiful lives turned to ashes on the pyre of gender identity. I must look about myself and, as a Black feminist, I must ask myself: Where is the love?

–'Where is the Love?' speech by June Jordan, at the 1978 National Black Writers Conference at Howard University

Recently, there has been a lot of gossip around the events surrounding the singers Chris Brown and Rihanna. They were said to be dating, but rumor had it they were in shaky water, cuddly one minute, and arguing the next. During the weekend of the 51st Grammy Awards, Rihanna checked herself into a hospital with bruises, bite marks, a black eye, and a bloody nose. Whether all the details being gossiped about in the press are fact or fiction, Rihanna did have physical evidence showing that she was abused. Many articles say that an eyewitness pointed to Rihanna's boyfriend, Chris Brown, as the abuser. It has been confirmed that Chris Brown did turn himself in to the police, and was soon released on a $50,000 bond. Rihanna's representative said that she's doing well and is thankful for the support that she is getting. According to the LAPD, "Chris Brown is under investigation for alleged domestic violence felony battery." Recently Chris Brown released a statement. "Words cannot begin to express how sorry and saddened I am over what transpired," wrote Brown. "I'm seeking the counseling of my pastor, my mother and other loved ones and I am committed, with God's help, to emerging a better person."

BLAMING THE SURVIVOR

Most people look at the surface of this situation and ask questions like: Did Chris really beat Rihanna? What did she do to make him beat her? The media support this survivor-blaming analysis when they report the story. For example: "The fight was ignited when singer Chris Brown got a text message from another young woman." And: "Sources allegedly close to Brown say that the fight leading to the domestic violence incident occurred because Rihanna gave Chris Brown herpes." But let's step back and look at it on a broader scale. Does a man *ever* have the right to beat a woman? Why is it that if a woman is beaten, she is always said to be the one that has provoked it? Why do so many abuse cases get overlooked or swept under the rug?

It's important to remember that though women and queer people are the majority of violence survivors, men are survivors, too. According to the Berkeley Media Studies Group paper "Distracted by Drama: How California Newspapers Portray Intimate Partner Violence," in many articles, the survivor of violence was blamed. The newspapers gave many excuses for why women were abused, shifting the responsibility for violence from perpetrators to survivors of violence. (They used the word "victim," but we would use the word "survivor.") For example:

· The victim may have contributed to the violence by wearing sexy, revealing clothing or flirting.
· The victim may have provoked the problem, perhaps by having been married many times, arguing, nagging, or flaunting success, etc.
· The victim may have contributed to the problem by being unfaithful or dating others.
· The victim may have contributed to the problem by staying with a violent partner, failing to cooperate with police, or continuing to see a violent partner.

Can you believe these excuses? Let's take a closer look at this. If a woman cheats, wears sexy clothing, stays with the violent partner, becomes proud and speaks about her success, speaks her mind, or verbally challenges her partner, she is liable to get abused. Do you see any problems here? We do! What about the man? Can he wear sexy clothing? Can he date other women? Can he boast and talk about his success? Of course he can, because he is a man, right?

MAKING EXCUSES FOR ABUSERS

Even when media doesn't put all the blame on the survivors, they make excuses for abusers. In that same study by the Berkeley Media Studies Group, they also gathered data about ways that newspapers downplayed the abusers' responsibility. These are ways newspapers framed their stories:
· The suspect may have acted violently at least partly due to drinking or drug abuse.
· The suspect may have acted violently at least out of love for a spouse or children, or fear of losing children.
· Violence arose in part from a flawed relationship with blame on both sides, e.g. they fought a lot.
· The suspect may have "snapped", acting spontaneously and out of character.

Love does not mean abuse. There is no good excuse for abusing someone, sober or not.

WHY DOESN'T SHE LEAVE?

When you see that a woman is in an abusive relationship, one question that usually follows is "well, why doesn't she leave him?" That is what we saw when we were reading about Rihanna and Chris Brown and their situation. On bossip.com, someone posted that, "She needed to leave him after the 1st punch. If she is still there after that then she deserves the 2nd 3rd and 4th." We think that that is horrible and untrue. When a woman is in an abusive relationship, you never know her situation. She could be scared to leave him, especially if he is beating on her. Look at Rihanna and Chris. He choked her and knocked her out! Also we read that people think that Rihanna needs to get back with Chris and help salvage his career. We think that this is so untrue. We think that he is getting what he deserves. She shouldn't have to feel responsible for what is happening to him. He needs to know that hitting a woman is unacceptable.

We hear so much of what will happen to Chris Brown's reputation and career if these allegations are proven to be true. We hear how all Chris Brown's sponsors and endorsements will back down, and how his entire career may go down the drain. Now we ask, what is going to happen to Rihanna? We never hear, on a well publicized scale, how this is going to affect her career. We do not even hear how she may be damaged mentally, physically, or emotionally after this incident of abuse. You would think that because she is a survivor of abuse, people would be concerned with her wellbeing. As far as Rihanna goes, this is what we do know. Last summer, Rihanna released a statement saying how she had started building her career from endorsements before she even released her hits. The *LA Times* recently reported that Rihanna had the reputation of representing "something very positive and in particular a strong female role model, and when she's associated with a situation like this it can have an impact." They quoted a marketing executive as predicting that companies are likely to shun her in the future.

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT CHRIS & RIHANNA

On September 17, 2008, 78% of identified domestic violence programs in the United States and territories, which totaled 1,553 programs, participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services, conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Every year, this organization conducts a 24-hour survey of domestic violence programs across the country to capture a day-in-the-life snapshot of domestic violence service provision in the United States. This is the data that was reported:

· Over 20,300 adults and children sought refuge in emergency shelter in a day.
· More than 10,000 adults and children were living in transitional housing.
· Over 30,300 adults and children received non-residential services, such as counseling, legal advocacy, and support groups.
· Over 21,500 domestic violence hotline calls were made.

On top of all of this, an additional 60,799 adults and children were provided additional domestic violence services. All of this data came from a 24-hour time period. 24 HOURS! If these are the numbers of women and children trying to escape violence in one day, imagine what those numbers would be in a week, a month, or horrifically, a year. This information shows how many people are seeking support services for domestic violence. But imagine how many more people never seek help. If you look at police reports of domestic violence, you only get part of the story. Women and genderqueer people, especially people of color or poor people, are often overlooked in today's society. When is the day going to come where violence against women and gender queer people is going to get the attention that it deserves?

WHAT WE DEMAND

Every time there is a story like this we never hear anything from the survivor's point of view. We really want to know how this is affecting Rihanna. What is life like for her now? We feel like in situations like this the young woman of color is always left out and forgotten about and more likely than not the blame is put on her. She is put to the side and told to get on with her life. But that is not so simple. There are scars that will never heal and wounds that will never close. We will probably never even get to sympathize with her. We want there to be something out there that tells the story from the perspective of the survivor. We think that when the media blames survivors, and questions their decision whether or not to leave, it can scare a survivor away from getting help, because it seems like nobody will sympathize with her or even believe her. Or even worse, she'll be blamed for the abuse. We want young women and queer youth of color to have our voices in the media so that survivors don't look bad and aren't made to look like trash or like they deserve the violence.

Females United For Action, or FUFA, is a Chicago-based group of young women and genderqueer youth who are interested in doing healing and organizing around the issues that are most important to us. We are led by and made up mostly of young people of color. You might know us from our 25 Pegaditas campaign, where we went after the radio station La Ley for their offensive billboard ads where they promoted the abuse and mistreatment of young women of color. FUFA is part of a bigger organization, Women & Girls Collective Action Network. We use media justice work and other tactics to challenge violence against girls, women, and genderqueer people. We at Women and Girls CAN believe it is possible to end violence against women, girls, and genderqueer people. We believe in the power and knowledge of survivors and resisters of violence. We believe that communities have the potential and the responsibility to be more accountable to members of their community in ending violence against women, girls, and queers.

--You can learn more about us at:
www.womenandgirlscan.org or
www.myspace.com/femalesunitedforaction

More Queer People Murdered. Lesbian and Gay Groups Care Less

By Beau Vyne of BB! News

New Orleans Police discovered the bodies of three young, Black, Queer people in a 7th ward house in Dec. The three, one of whom was gender variant, were shot to death in the house sometime around 3 or 4am. Mainstream media and police are ignoring the fact that the three people were queer and possibly trans. Facebook groups devoted to the three and comments on news sites are raising questions by Queer people of color as to why large lesbian and gay groups are ignoring this. Many have wondered if there would be an LGBT white-out about such violence had the three been wealthy white gay businessmen.

The Lesbian and Gay movement is so focused on begging the state for a marriage license they seem to have forgotten everyone who is not well off and white. On Wednesday morning Jennifer Gale, a homeless transwoman, froze to death because no shelters would take her in. On Thursday 3 Queer people in New Orleans were shot and killed. On Friday, Join The Impact held silent candlelight vigils for their "Right" to Marry. Needless to say that in this struggle, white people have demonized communities of color for their alleged role in passing Prop 8. To many in the marriage movement, Queer People of Color and Trans people don't even exist. It's typical for White people in the marriage movement to claim that Trans people should wait til Gays get their rights. When violence is perpetrated against Queers of Color, HRC and other marriage-oriented organizations are typically silent. (E.g., the NJ Four, the 4 just killed in New Orleans, and virtually every other trans person or queer person of color). What's more important: marriage, or housing for people freezing on the street? A slip of paper or the guarantee that when people in our community are shot point blank, we stand up and bash the fuck back?! Why aren't we focusing on HIV/AIDS? If we put the energy and money wasted on the marriage movement into other projects, think what we could do. We could open queer/trans friendly spaces for the homeless. We could demand, or better, provide free quality healthcare to all people. Instead of collecting food and giving it to corrupt homophobic institutions, we could collect food and distribute it ourselves. We could confront classism, racism, sexism, and transphobia amongst LGBTQ people. All the while militantly raisin' hell in the streets and disrupting business as usual, as every generation of Queers has since 1968. If we did all this, we'd see more change than Barack Obama has ever offered us.It is long past time that queer and trans people got our shit together. We've been fighting since birth; you'd think we'd know how to do it effectively.

Anti-Racist Action - Now More than Ever!

The Anti-Racist Movement, the ARA Phenomenon, and the Anti-Racist Action Network

by Auntie Fash

The movement against racism has been a mass reality since before the word racism was coined. It picked up speed and strength in the U.S. and around the world with the development of so-called "scientific racism" in the era of Social Darwinism that tried to justify colonies and Empire on the basis of alleged racial differences in intelligence, culture and "fitness." Some high water marks of the movement against racism have been the struggles to abolish the trans-Atlantic slave "trade" and slavery itself, as well as the movement after World War II to identify genocide as a crime against humanity and to adopt a universal standard of human rights. In the US, the civil rights struggle exemplified by Martin Luther King Jr., and the human rights/national independence struggle personified by Malcolm X, were succeeded by the Black Panther Party for Self Defense and similar liberation organizations and movements among other oppressed and colonized people. These cracked reactionary 'racial solidarity' among white people and launched a new era of anti-racist struggle among people privileged under a racist system. Racism, particularly white supremacy, has increasingly been discredited as an official ideology of state domination, as evidenced in the global struggle against apartheid-colonialism in South Africa. Yet institutionalized racism and white supremacy continue unabated. The need for continuing anti-racist struggle on a mass level and within the institutions of the society and economy, as well as government, is clear.

The fact that the election of a Black man to the U.S. Presidency does not mean "the end of racism" is evidenced by the decision of the Obama administration to boycott the Durban II World Conference Against Racism. Categorically opposed to reparations for slavery, the slave trade and colonialism, and desiring to spare Israel a confrontation over its oppression of the Palestinians, the US decided not to participate. Despite this US boycott, many who voted for Barack Obama for president saw it as a vote against racism. Anti-racist sentiment informs the education reform movement, labor struggles in the U.S., and the defense of migrant rights. It is an element within the environmental movement, focusing on justice; in struggles for prison abolition and to free political prisoners; in resistance to police abuse, medical neglect, insurance and real estate red-lining of communities of color. It takes many forms.

Since the "mainstreaming" of anti-racism in response to the struggles of the 50s, 60s and 70s, anti-racist activity has gone in two different directions. Increasingly, some elements have aligned with the state, becoming non-profit NGOs, providing intelligence and identifying the problem as one of "extremism." Others have continued to struggle against institutionalized racism as well as organized white supremacy. Sometimes this takes the form of educational work, consciousness raising and sensitivity training. But within this more grass-roots sector that sees racism operating within mainstream political and economic systems, a current of direct action has emerged. This more spontaneous, militant wing, often generated out of opposition to racist and neo-nazi violence and organizing, has mostly manifested itself in the phenomenon of Anti-Racist Action. Much like CopWatch and Food Not Bombs, the ARA phenomenon has arisen and sustained itself without hierarchical or centralized organization. Chapters spring up in response to local conditions, inspired by the existence of like-minded and similarly-named groups elsewhere in the US, Canada and globally.

Dozens and dozens of "chapters" of ARA have sprung up, most for relatively short duration, going back as far as the 1980s. They continue to do so as we near the second decade of the 21st Century because institutionalized and organized racism continue to be a problem. Within this direct action ARA phenomenon, the Anti-Racist Action Network has developed and sustained itself. ARA chapters affiliated with the Network share a few common principles, a loose-knit organizational association with a few key institutions such as the War Chest to defend anti-racists and anti-fascists targeted by the state and the ARA Store to spread anti-racist culture and merchandise, and the network website. More important ARA network members have vouched for each other and for affiliated chapters through common practice and direct personal contact. But because the network is not centralized or hierarchical, anyone anywhere can and does use the ARA name if they identify with the "brand" of militant, confrontational, counter-cultural direct action associated with "Anti-Racist Action" for more than two decades.

The ARA Network is interested in helping new chapters get started and getting affiliated to the Network. We recognize that there is strength in numbers and that we have learned important lessons individually and collectively that can assist others. There is no sense in continually "re-inventing the wheel," or in stumbling into some of the same errors, such as sexism, which often plague ARA chapters. We understand that the necessity of fighting racism and fascism is growing, not diminishing. While we want to have fun and get to know each other better while challenging the fash, it is serious business. Here's a list of ARA chapters. The ones affiliated with and vouched by the network come first. The others we have been in some contact with or found via electronic means but for one reason or another they are not yet full network members.

We're open to your criticism and ideas. We encourage you to start a chapter of your own, to adopt the 4 Points of Unity that distinguish the ARA Network, and to get in touch with us (as well as with others who identify themselves with the ARA phenomenon and spirit). You'll be glad you did! And if you're in an existing chapter that has not yet affiliated with the network, we hope you will reconsider, reach out, and figure how we can work together to build the effectiveness, power and scope of Anti-Racist Action!

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People Against Racist Terror
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Rose City Antifa (Portland)
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fight_them_back@RISEUP.net

Shorecore Anti-Racist Action (NJ)
jerseyshoreara@RISEUP.net

Southern Ontario Anti-Racist Action
SouthernOntarioARA@GMAIL.com

Toronto Anti-Racist Action
www.ARAtoronto.org
info@ARATORONTO.org

Trenton Anti-Racist Action
TrentonARA@GMAIL.com

Other chapters you can reach through the network web site, www.antiracistaction.us:

Anti-Racist Action Montreal

Baltimore Anti-Racist Action

Central Texas Anti-Racist Action

Cleveland Anti-Racist Action

Las Vegas Anti-Racist Action

Morgantown Anti-Racist Action

New Orleans Anti-Racist Action

October 15th Anarchist Collective (Toledo)

ARA chapters not vouched members of network yet:

ARA Tuolomne County, PO Box 343, Long Barn CA 95335

ARA Spokane WA, spokaneantiracistaction@gmail.com

Numerous ARA and RASH chapters and groups posting to social networking web sites such as FaceBook, MySpace, etc.

Get in touch if you're building a chapter somewhere new!

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK

FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) **WE GO WHERE THEY GO:** Whenever fascists are organizi
ng or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them.
Never let the nazis have the street!

2) **WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US:** This doesn't mean we never go to court.
But we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) **NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS:** In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals.
We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) **We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom.** ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a free classless society.

WE INTEND TO WIN!

Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)
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Time to Foreclose on Colonialism: "Ceded Lands" & the State of Hawaii's Claim to Perfect Title

In the recent Ceded Lands hearing at the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., on February 25, 2009, HI Attorney General Mark Bennett repeatedly asserted in the hearings that the State of Hawai`i has perfect title to over one million acres of land. He claims that they were transferred to the US government upon annexation in 1898 and then transferred to the State of Hawai`i in 1959. This is an incorrect statement. This falsehood, however, is not based on arguments for or against the highly charged Hawaiian sovereignty movement. Rather, it is a simple question to answer since ownership of land is not a matter of rhetoric but dependent on a sequence of deeds in a chain of title between the party granting title and the party receiving title. In fact, the term "perfect title" in real estate terms means "a title that is free of liens and legal questions as to ownership of the property. A requirement for the sale of real estate."

What determines a perfect title is a chain of title that doesn't have a missing link. Here in Hawai`i all titles originate from the Hawaiian Kingdom government, whether by Royal Patents or Land Commission Awards. All subsequent conveyances between individuals are registered at the Bureau of Conveyances located at the corner of Punchbowl and Beretania Streets on the ground floor of the Kalanimoku Building. An example of a chain of title would be the Hawaiian Kingdom government to Joe Smith, Joe Smith to Alex White, Alex White to Alapa`i, Alapa`i to Yao Wong, Yao Wong to Jonathan Judd. If there is no record of the deed between Alapa`i and Yao Wong, there is a break in the chain of title and therefore Jonathan Judd cannot claim to have a perfect title, which is a "requirement for the sale of real estate."

For so-called Ceded Lands, being the Hawaiian Kingdom government and Crown lands, the chain of title is supposedly from the Hawaiian Kingdom government and Queen Lili`uokalani to the Provisional government, from the Provisional government to the Republic of Hawai`i, then from the Republic of Hawai`i to the United States, and finally from the United States to the State of Hawai`i. In this chain, however, there are two missing links and not just one. On January 17, 1893, the Provisional government seized control of the Government and Crown lands without conveyance, but through revolt. After investigating the revolt, US President Grover Cleveland reported to Congress on December 18, 1893 that the Provisional government was neither de facto (a successful revolution), nor de jure (the lawful government), but self-proclaimed (committing the crime of high treason). On November 13, 1893, U.S. Ambassador Albert Willis began to negotiate with the Queen, on behalf of President Cleveland, to grant amnesty for these criminals. An agreement to restore the Hawaiian Kingdom government was concluded with the condition that the Queen grant amnesty after the government was restored.

The other missing link is that there is no record of conveyance from the so-called Republic of Hawai`i to the United States when the Hawaiian Islands were supposedly annexed in 1898. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the term cede is "to yield or give up by treaty." In order for countries to cede territory to the United States it must be done by treaty, e.g. Louisiana Purchase from France in 1803, or the Alaska Purchase from Russia in 1867. For Hawai`i, there are two ***failed*** treaties of cession, the first in 1893 and the other in 1897. The first was permanently withdrawn from the Senate by Pres. Cleveland in March 1893. The second was not ratified by the Senate, because of protests by the Queen and Hawaiian subjects. Instead, the US later enacted a Congressional joint resolution proclaiming that the Hawaiian Islands had been annexed. The joint resolution of annexation is not a treaty or conveyance from the so-called Republic of Hawai`i. It is a unilateral declaration that was used to seize and occupy the Hawaiian Islands during the Spanish-American War. The US today can no more annex Iraq by a joint resolution than it could annex the Hawaiian Islands by joint resolution in 1898. Congressional laws have no effect beyond the borders of the United States.

There is no record of a deed from the Hawaiian Kingdom government and the Queen to the Provisional government transferring Government and Crown lands. There is a break in the chain of title. Therefore the State of Hawai`i cannot claim to have a perfect title, which is a "requirement for the sale of real estate." As far as the term "Ceded lands," there is no such thing, because the Government and Crown lands were never ceded, "yielded or given up by treaty" to the United States in the first place. Confusing occupation with cession is like confusing kidnapping with adoption. This isn't a case of semantics, but ignorance of Hawai`i's legal and political history.

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Email: info@hawaii-nation.org,
URL: http://hawaii-nation.org,
Subscribe to list:
hawaii-nation-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

"The cause of Hawaii and independence is larger and dearer than the life of any man connected with it. Love of country is deep-seated in the breast of every Hawaiian, whatever his station."
- Queen Lili`uokalani

Oldest Colony in the World:
Human Rights and Self-Determination in Puerto Rico

By Lawrence Reyes, *Alianza Puertorriquena/Puerto Rican Alliance-Los Angeles*

Dr. Doris Pizarro and Ms. Emily Blais, Puerto Rican political, labor activists are touring the United States speaking about violations of Human Rights in Puerto Rico and the Summer 2009 discussion of Puerto Rico's colonial status at the United Nations General Assembly. Puerto Rico, which was colonized by Christopher Columbus sailing for Spain, and eventually invaded and taken over by the United States in 1898, is the oldest continuous colony in the world. Spain, which had previously granted Puerto Rico autonomy, guaranteeing no changes in its status without consulting the Puerto Ricans themselves, ceded control to the U.S. as war booty following the so-called "Spanish-American War" (fought in Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines).

Under U.S. control, the Puerto Rican economy and agriculture were virtually destroyed, and more than 1/3 of the island nation's population transferred to the U.S. Citizenship was imposed in order to use Puerto Ricans as cannon fodder in World War I and subsequently. Nearly 40% of Puerto Rican women of child-bearing age were sterilized, and Puerto Rican women were used as guinea pigs in the development of oral contraceptives. More recently, US-owned petrochemical plants have resulted in early-onset of sexual maturity in Puerto Rican girls.

The US military and every repressive agency of the US government, including the CIA, FBI and Naval Intelligence operate with impunity in Puerto Rico, and have been responsible for numerous killings of independence activists. Many independentistas have been held as political prisoners and even prisoners of war by the U.S.

In the 1950s, US air forces bombed Puerto Rico during the Jayuya uprising for independence. During the 1960s and 1970s, Puerto Rican pro-independence activists, teachers, lawyers, ministers, priests, community activists, labor leaders were targeted by both the FBI's Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) and the Intelligence Division of the Police of Puerto Rico. In 1992, the Government of Puerto Rico, under orders of Puerto Rico's Supreme Court, returned thousands of dossiers on 75,000 Puerto Ricans, 16,000 of which had detailed files from a few pages to thousands, to the victims. On December 14, 1999, colonial Governor Pedro Rossello issued an apology for the "injustice" that was committed for decades against pro-independence activists.

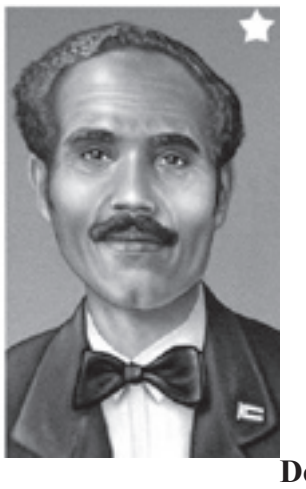
On September 23, 2005, the anniversary of Puerto Rico's declaration of independence against Spain, pro-independence leader Filiberto Ojeda Rios of the clandestine *Macheteros* was killed by the FBI, Puerto Rico's Department of Justice said that the FBI 's account of the events was not backed by the physical evidence. On February 10, 2006, dozens of Puerto Rican journalists, covering when FBI agents conducted a search of the house of a prominent University of Puerto Rico professor, were sprayed with pepper spray. Protests were filed by the Puerto Rican Journalists Association in local and international human rights organizations. Puerto Rican activists in the US have been targeted for subpoenas and incarceration for refusal to testify in a series of Grand Jury witch-hunts. None of these measures are new or surprising. Puerto Rico was one of the original targets of COINTELPRO.

"The FBI is evaluating the possibility of instituting a program to disarticulate the organizations who are supporting independence for Puerto Rico . . . As we evaluate this matter, it is important that you are aware that we want to disarticulate the activities of these organizations, we are not merely interested in harassment . . . —J. Edgar Hoover memo to the San Juan office of the FBI, August 4, 1960.

For more information about Puerto Rico and the tour, check out :

http://www.cipdc.org/Welcome.htm and
http://www.pr-secretfiles.net/

The Los Angeles event will be held on Friday, March 20, 6:30pm at the Centro Cultural Francisco Villa, 2100 S. Maple Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90011
For information contact alianzapr@hotmail.com, (310) 460-8586 or UdbLA@aol.com, (323) 602-3480.
The event is sponsored by Unión De Barrio, Comite de Mujeres Patricia Marín, and Puerto Rican Alliance; co-sponsored by All African Peoples Revolutionary Party, Anti-Racist Action-LA, ABCF Los Angeles, FUPA, KPFK-90.7 Outreach Committee, CSULB Chicano and Latino Studies, Brown Berets Los Angeles Autonomous Chapter, Union of Progressive Iranians, and many more...



Don Pedro Albizu Campos, leader of the Puerto Rican independence struggle until his death in the 1950s after years as a political prisoner of US imperialism.

15-year-old Chumash receives death threats in California

Backlash to opposing mascots exposes racism in coastal CA town

By Brenda Norrell, Censored News, http://www.bsnorrell.blogspot.com

CARPINTERIA, Calif. – A 15-year-old Chumash youth received death threats because he urged his high school to eliminate sports mascots which are degrading and mock Native Americans and their culture. After those deaths were reported to police in this small coastal town, 90 minutes north of Los Angeles, police took no action and said the death threats were not credible.

Mark Anquoe, Kiowa from Oklahoma and member of the American Indian Movement, said it is inexcusable for police not to take death threats of a student seriously. Speaking on Red Town Radio, Anquoe said it is surprising with the number of shootings in schools in the United States, such as Colombine, that this death threat was not taken seriously. "You would think a death threat made to a student would be investigated and disciplinary action would be taken," Anquoe said of the youth, whose name is not published here because he is a minor.

"The Indian people in this tiny community are vastly outnumbered. You saw this one young person stand up when he felt his people were being dishonored and this was the price that is being paid for speaking up," Anquoe said. "It didn't fall into their legal definition of what a threat is," said Corine Fairbanks, Lakota and member of the American Indian Movement, living in Santa Barbara near Carpinteria. Fairbanks said the high school here was one of the last schools in the area to be desegregated. "It has a history of being really resistant to change." The area is home to the Chumash people and the federally recognized Santa Ynez and state recognized Chumash near Malibu.

Fairbanks said the issues came to the forefront after the Chumash youth was disturbed by the mascot. When he received an assignment to explore "Be the change you want to see in the world," he chose to take on the challenge of exposing the degrading images of sports mascots. After taking the issue to the school board, the "Warriors" mascot was removed. However, what followed revealed that the racism in the United States which is often believed to be confined to pockets, like in the south or in bordertowns around Indian Nations in the west, was manifested in this central coastal California.

A fierce reaction followed from some residents in the city of Carpinteria, joined by some alumni and some of the students. They formed an organization, "Warrior spirit will never die," and opposed the young man's efforts and those who supported him. The virulent opposition even went on to recall a school board member who supported the Chumash youth. The organization followed with intimidation and harassment of the youth, his family and those who allied themselves.

Anquoe said what happened in Carpinteria makes it clear that some people believe that Indians should be involved only as a matter of token diversity, and only so long as they keep quiet. Indians are seen as a "good luck charm," for a sport's team. "As soon as a real flesh and blood Indian stands up and says, 'I deserve to be treated like a human being.' You see this huge crazy maniacal backlash from the citizens in this little town." Anquoe said the backlash to this one young man standing up in Carpinteria has rallied widespread support from the American Indian Movement and AIM California Indians.

Red Town Radio host Brenda Golden, Muscogee from Oklahoma, sent a message to those who want to honor American Indian culture: Don't make fun of our culture. Anquoe said young American Indians in public schools are affected deeply when they see signs that say" Scalp the Indians," "Kill the Indians," and watch Indians burned in effigy. Fairbanks said some in the area attempt to say they are honoring Native Americans with mascot images. She points out, however, that the war bonnet and other symbols are primarily Plains style, while the Chumash in this area have a different culture.

Fairbanks said public schools receive tax dollars to teach the truth. It is time to put away the Hollywood images and mascots, she said. "It doesn't honor the Chumash people." Further, Anquoe said the backlash has been so serious that Indian people have been forced to move out of town and move out of school districts. Similar situations are happening all over the country, as people put forth the images of "clown Indians." Anquoe said one of the reasons that people in the United States put out these ridiculous images is because they do not want to deal with the "uncomfortable truths" of the real history of American Indians in this country.

With the image of mascots revealing this dark side of racism in America, Anquoe said Americans have to face and teach the real history of American Indians.
UPDATE: You can email the Carpinteria School Board members at: Terry Hickey Banks tbanks@cusd.net, Lou Panizzon lpanizzon@cusd.net, Alex Pulido apulido@cusd.net, Leslie Deardorff ldeardorff@cusd.net, Beverly Grant bgrant@cusd.net. The 1st three board members still seem to be in favor of retaining the imagery; the latter two already voted for removal. It will be reconsidered on March 17, 2009. [Ed. note: As we went to press, the board voted to remove the demeaning images.]

Listen to this radio show at Red Town Radio: http://www.blogtalkradio.com/RedTownRadio
Press statements by Mark Anquoe and Corine Fairbanks:
http://bsnorrell.blogspot.com/search?q=Carpinteria

OBAMA SECRETLY "DAMNING" INDIGENOUS WATER

by Mohawk Nation News

On February 19, the U.S. "bucket brigade" of President Barack "Sorcerer's-Apprentice" Obama and his entourage brought their empty pails to Canada. They want Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his buddies to start hauling Indigenous water to the States. They're after our resources. You can bet on it! The following day Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar, will make an important announcement about their plan to steal our water.

Ripping off our water is another route of the "banksters" to bring in their New World Order. The multinationals know about the forthcoming water shortages because they're stealing and polluting it. These water czars call themselves the "global guardians". Part of their plan to control the world is by controlling the food supply through controlling the water supply. The UN calls water a human right. The fox wants to be in charge of the hen house in this "humanitarian crisis" of their making. Since colonization our Indigenous communities no longer have access to clean water. This doesn't stop them from pilfering even more from us.

Barack Obama's front man, Rahm Emanuel, is known as "the godfather of Great Lakes restoration". The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence watershed is part of Haudenosaunee Territory, which we will never surrender. The Nanfan Treaty of 1701 prohibits interference by colonists and foreigners on the eastern half of Turtle Island. If they try to do this, they will be committing another violation of the Two Row Wampum Agreement with our people. They know very well that we never gave the colonists any rights over our land and resources. As the caretakers and trustees, we have the duty to protect the largest surface fresh water in the world. We Indigenous people are in their way but we are not going away.

Tom Kierans and GrandCo executives like Lou"Marine-Dead-Zone" Desmarais know that Indigenous resistance and sovereignty are the biggest obstacles to their greedy power seizing schemes. That's why Indigenous people like the Algonquins are bombarded with agents from every direction who are trying to confuse and subvert them. The Grand Canal would pass through Algonquin territory in the Canadian Shield of Quebec and Ontario. Salazar of Colorado controls the tap. He lives near Canadian billionaire Maurice Strong who "owns" all that land on top of the largest aquifer in the US. Strong is high up the UN food chain. The resource grab will be "legalized" by setting up a UN army to enforce their attempted domination over us and our water. Is it a coincidence that Maude Barlow of Ottawa has been appointed as the "UN Senior Advisor on Water?" Strong also works in Beijing with the Chinese. Huge water diversion projects will be done in China first where there are fewer environmental or labor laws. China is now building its South to North Water Diversion, the biggest engineering feat since the Three Gorges Dam built by Canadian companies. Half a million will be relocated.

One way colonists destroyed our environment was through water diversion to do stupid projects like growing rice in the desert. In the last few years, the salmon fishery on the Pacific Coast has been destroyed to provide water for commercial farmers. They were so focused on immediate profits that they didn't heed the damage they were causing to the environment. Turtle Island comfortably supported a large Indigenous population before these catastrophic interventions by these European visitors. California has declared a state of emergency due to their four-year drought. Farmers have been denied water, forced to reduce crops or stop planting. Drought-stricken US and Mexico need irrigation to grow food for their market. The US has been turned into a desert. Now they want to mess up the north of Turtle Island.

The "Grand Canal" scheme is supposed to divert what they call "wasted" water that flows into James Bay. One of their hair-brained schemes is to block off James Bay and turn it into a fresh water lake which will be diverted to the U.S. Do they realize that they'll kill everything in the ocean by making it too salty? These plans are made by money grubbers, not ecologists or Indigenous people. It was first proposed by Tom Kierans in 1959. It's an old rotten idea, just like the opportunists who thought it up. Kierans has no qualifications as an environmentalist. He's not looking at the inevitable environmental collapse he wants to perpetrate. Water will be sent for miles along concrete canals and aqueducts, sometimes uphill. Nuclear energy will be the horse and wagon for this job. The venture is backed by powerful dirty engineering companies like the UMA Group, the SNC Group, Bechtel Canada Ltd., Rousseau, Sauve and Warren Inc. Kierans says that Lavalin, Canada's largest engineering company, is courting GrandCo, his company. Even Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. [AECL]hopes to supply CANDU reactors to power the pumps that will move up to 30 per cent of the discharge of the Great Lakes.

Canadian people aren't opposing these schemes because they are too polite and too ignorant. They are also afraid the US will come and take the water by force anyway. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) and North American Union (NAU) are set up as "illegal diversions" for water theft. Don't kid yourselves, the U.S. always behaved like vipers in these accords. When they want something, they take it. They don't let the welfare of other people get in their way. Look at what happened in Iraq! The Great Lakes Water Compact recently approved by Congress and Parliament without any public discussion is a bucket full of holes. They're going to need more than mops to swab up the environmental disaster they're trying to commit.
The White Mountain Apaches in Arizona just signed a deal to get clean water. They were forced to give their water in the entire state so that 100s of golf courses could be kept green. Arizona "loaned" the Apaches the money for their water treatment facility and reservoir. Most Apaches weren't consulted. The agreement isn't legal. It's just the usual colonial con job! These colonists have to sit with us on a "nation to nation" basis according to our treaties, agreements and inherent jurisdiction, not on a "government to government" basis as they recently stated. For us, we should resume growing corn, beans and squash, the sustainers of our ancestors. We need to stay closer to home to care for the earth and protect our communities from these water world vultures. These zany visitors from Europe and their passengers just can't stop themselves from creating one calamity after another over here. Hey, Barack, Stephen, Ken, Maurice, Tom, Louis and Maude, why don't you stand on the corner with your empty pails. We might put in a few drops of water to quench your thirst. But that's all! [For more information and contacts, see background notes are at the end of this article.]

--Ia'koha:kowa & MNN Staff

Mohawk Nation News URL: www.mohawknationnews.com email: kittoh@storm.ca katenies20@yahoo.com **kahentinetha2@yahoo.com.** Donations to **MNN,** Box 991, Kahnawake [Quebec, Canada] J0L 1B0.
Nia:wen thank you very much.

Pelican Bay SHU at 20: The Forgotten Struggle

by Daniel Perez

In the beginning… "Dry words on paper cannot adequately capture the senseless suffering and sometimes wretched misery that defendants' unconstitutional practices leave in their wake." –Hon. Thelton E. Henderson, judge in *Madrid v. Gomez* (N.D. Cal.1995). And in *Madrid*, the court held that "the conditions of extreme social isolation and reduced environmental stimulation found in the P.B. (SHU) will likely inflict some degree of psychological trauma upon most inmates confined there for more than brief periods."

Please note these words only described the first 5 years of the Pelican Bay Security Housing Unit, and were written and fully documented some 15 years before Abu-Ghraib shocked the conscience of the world (except for those in PB SHU). Yet shockingly the court ruled that "…conditions in PB (SHU) were not per se violative of the 8th Amendment's cruel and unusual punishment clause." Thus spake Henderson. Fast forward (imagine a montage of the Rodney King beating, a train wreck and war porn) to the present.

Presently the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has reached a settlement in *Castillo v. Alameida Jr.*, which began in 1994. The settlement was intended to curb certain practices used by CDCR in validating and retaining prisoners indefintiely in PB (SHU) for being an associate or member of a prison gang.

For example:
Defendants agree that a prisoner's talking to a validated gang member or associate in a (SHU) law library shall not be relied upon as a source item unless IGI (institutional gang investigator) or staff has an articulable basis for determining that the communication was related to gang activity.
Defendants agree that exclusive reliance on hearsay from a confidential source will not be used a source item for validation.
Defendants agree that a prisoner will not receive an indeterminate (SHU) term as a validated gang member or associate without first being found to be a current active gang member or associate consistent with the procedural safeguards established in this agreement.
Defendants agree that "laundry lists" – that is when confidential informants, including through 'debriefing,' identify a prisoner as an associate or gang member by listing name(s) of inmate(s) without reference to any gang-related act – shall not be relied upon as a source item.

Confidential sources and their "debriefers" are like Winston Smith in Orwell's "1984" who appeased his keepers by acknowledging that two plus two equals five.

Guantanamo Bay detention center was created after and in response to 9-11-2001, and since its beginning there has been a great world-wide debate, over not only the lawfulness of its existence and purpose, but also the conditions and interrogation practices to which the detainees were subjected. The US Supreme Court has heard numerous Guantanamo Bay cases (and ruled favorably to the prisoners) whereas *Madrid* and *Castillo* only reached the district court level before being watered down and forgotten (but not for lack of effort by Madrid or Castillo themselves. This is not to compare how terrible each is, or who deserves more to be shut down. Because nobody deserves Guantanamo Bay or Pelican Bay.

However, again the blatant hypocrisy must be confronted by "truth to power," and to those who spread the false fear that if the detainees have access to the courts, they'll suddenly be set free. PB (SHU) prisoners have had access to the courts for 20 years and the conditions and practices have only worsened.

In closing, I urge readers to please note ARA's second point of unity: "…we don't rely on the cops or the courts to do our work for us. This doesn't mean we never go to court, but we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists."

Daniel Perez #C-16779, (SHU) d3-120,
PO Box 7500, Crescent City CA 95532

FREE MUMIA AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

On April 24-25, 2009, in Philadelphia, Oakland, New York, Seattle and other cities around the U.S., "More Than A Book Party" events will he held, marking the release of death-row journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal's new book Jailhouse Lawyers: Prisoners Defending Prisoners v. the U.S.A published by City Lights.
For more info: http://www.abu-jamal-news.com/

Friday, April 24th, 6:00 pm
Philadelphia, PA: The Church of the Advocate, 1801 W Diamond St., Philadelphia PA
http://www.churchoftheadvocate.org/

Speakers include: Paul Wright, editor of Prison Legal News; Amin, formerly "Harold Wilson," the 122nd person freed from death row in the US; Ramona Africa, Minister of Communication for the MOVE Organization; Steven Hawkins, Executive Vice President of the NAACP, formerly with the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; Linn Washington Jr., Philadelphia Tribune columnist, Temple University Professor of Journalism, author of Black Judges on Justice: Perspectives from the Bench; and I Abdul Jon, longtime supporter of MOVE and Mumia.

For more info:
http://phillyimc.org/en/event-marking-mumia-abu-jamals-new-book-be-held-historic-church-advocate

Friday, April 24th, 6:30 pm
Oakland, CA: Humanist Hall, 411 28th St., Oakland CA
http://www.humanisthall.org/

City Lights in association with Prison Radio announce:
The Bay Area Book Party and Celebration for the Release of ***Jailhouse Lawyers*** by Mumia Abu-Jamal.
Join local and National authors and artists Angela Davis, Ed Mead, Avotjca, Killu Nyasha and many others as we celebrate Mumia's life, his freedom and his birthday with a Book Release Party and Potluck dinner. Sponsored by City Lights, International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal, The National Lawyers Guild, Prisoners of Conscience Committee, Prison Radio, among others.
Contact (415) 362-1901 for more info or e-mail info@prisonradio.org.

Saturday, April 25th, 4:00 pm
New York: Riverside Church, 120th Street & Claremont Avenue, Rm 411, MLK Wing

Come celebrate a "More Than a Book Party" with the publication of Mumia's new book on his 55th birthday. This program will be a tribute to the heroic brothers and sisters who risk so much and endure such vicious retribution for their fight for justice behind the walls of the hidden dungeons of the USA. Opening with a performance by THE IMPACT REPERTORY THEATRE, a politically conscious youth group, nominated for an Academy Award, created and coordinated by former political prisoner, "Panther 21" defendant, and now Chair of the Film Department at Columbia University, Jamal Joseph.

SPEAKERS: Video of Angela Davis; Eddie Ellis, former political prisoner/jailhouse lawyer, advocate for prisoners and their rights, host of WBAI's weekly prisoner show, "On the Count;" Ramona Africa, former jailhouse lawyer, sole adult survivor of the1985 government bombing of MOVE, Minister of Communication of MOVE, Brother Amin (Harold Wilson), former 16-year Death Row prisoner, at SCI Greene with Mumia, jailhouse lawyer exonerated through DNA testing; Paul Wright, editor, Prison Legal News; Mika'il Deveaux, spent 25 years in prison, co-founder of Citizens Against Recidivism, Inc., Director, Muslim Re-entry Initiative, former Soros Justice Fellow; Chairman Fred Hampton, Prisoners of Conscience Committee, former political prisoner, fighting activist, son of the martyred Black Panther Party leader, Fred Hampton, Sr. Pam Africa, International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, former political prisoner, and nonstop target of police repression. Question period, book signing, wine and cheese, etc.

Sponsored by: The Prison Ministry of the Riverside Church and the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC).

For more information: 212-330-8029 or www.freemumia.com

FREEMUMIA AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

EMERGENCY AT BIG MOUNTAIN

Ladies & Gentlemen, the Old, the Young, the Coming Generation, and Relatives:

As we speak, there exists a state of fear and anxiety in a traditional community at Big Mountain in the heart of Black Mesa. And as we speak, the federally deputized officers of the BIA Hopi Agency Police and Rangers are patrolling this region where a few traditional elders continue to live and also resist federal mandates to relocate. I want to bring your attention to one particular situation that is an example of the widespread acts of injustice, human rights violation, religious intolerance, and threats of property destruction.

Dineh resister and elder, Pauline Whitesinger, has stood her ground since 1977 when the BIA tried to build a range unit fence within the lands partitioned to the neighboring tribe, the (modern and progressive) Hopis. Pauline still believes in the old ways by upholding aboriginal rights and treaty rights and because of BIA-Hopi restriction on new contruction and her deteriorating ceremonial hogan, she replaced and rebuilt a new hogan. The BIA Indian police are constantly taken photographs of her residence, her neighbors that come to see her, her non-Indian volunteer helpers, and her grandchildren that come to visit. The police do not attempt to talk to her or answer to her concerns and requests.

This area known as the Hopi Partitioned Lands still has Dineh residents and has been made an isolated area, and this is allowing the federal government to do as they please with these last, traditional peoples. Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr. has even made numerous comments that the Dineh resistance at Big Mountain "a lost cause and a closed case" meaning that these Dineh are to never be thought of, again. Meaning that these Dineh, who are my Big Mountain relatives, need to be erased from the state of the Navajo Nation and perhaps, Pauline is right when she says, "we are in way of Peabody, profit, revenues, and industrial jobs."

The last few elder resisters and their few supporters (native or non-natives) will continue to provide the much needed humanitarian aide to our surviving history: traditional Dineh living and maintaining on their ancestral and sacred homelands. However, we all need to act in the best means possible and stop the daily Gestapo tactics and the potential demolition of a sacred hogan, or earth lodge. We all need to prevent any harm that may be committed on our elders or their helpers and most of all, prevent this growing hostility from getting out of hand.

All legal recourses are no longer an option since this is a challenge against a U.S. Executive Order, and The Peoples are the only option to bring about attention, focus and restoration.

I have attached a petition with addresses of officials and I am making a plea to you all, my relatives, to sign it and either send it directly to the listed officials or send them to the Black Mesa Indigenous Support. This situation is very urgent. These elders are very old now and they truly deserve much honor. They have lived in a way that, we or our future generations may never see humans live in this country. These traditional elders must live their naturally-given, old life in peace and harmony, Hozhon goh. Yaa'at'eeh goh. I apologize for the long list of officials, but it has become long because of so many years of ignorance and because certain, minor sectors of society believed that these Elders would have been defeated already. Thank you for your time.
Sincerely & In the Spirit of Chief Barboncito,
Bahe Y. Katenay (Naabaahii Keediniihii)Dineh of Big Mountain

http://blackmesais.org/2009/02/petition/
TRADITIONAL ELDERS
Black Mesa Indigenous Support, P.O. Box 23501
Flagstaff, Arizona 86002 blackmesais@riseup.net

Tristan, US Solidarity Activist, Shot in the West Bank

By Starhawk

As I write, my friend Tristan lies hovering between life and death in an Israeli hospital, shot in the head, hit with a tear gas canister at a nonviolent demonstration in the West Bank town of Niâ'lin, protesting the wall the Israelis are building to isolate the West Bank.

Tristan is — I say "is" because I don't dare slip into "was" for I fear that his hold on life is so tenuous, a shift into past tense might tip the balance -- Tristan is always there, at every demonstration, every mobilization, every fight for justice. He has always seemed fearless to me, with that young man's confidence in his physical body that I now envy. He's not so young — 38, still, I have 20 years on him. He seems young to me, strong, hardy, willing to sit in a tree for months to protect a grove of oaks at UC Berkeley, willing to camp out and show up early to clean out the convergence space, to eat bad pasta and dumpster-dived vegetables for weeks on end. Tall, slim, with dark eyes and olive skin, and a sharp, aquiline nose that starts off in one direction, then changes its mind and heads in another, he comes regularly to our rituals as well as actions, and helps build the North altar every year at the Spiral Dance. Soft-spoken, unassuming, more than anyone else I know he embodies a certain ideal of rigorous equality, never pulling rank nor trumpeting his considerable street cred, never asking for attention, simply showing up again and again and pitching in to get the work done.

Some ask, "Why don't the Palestinians adopt the tactics of Martin Luther King or Gandhi?" And the answer is simply this — they do. For the last six years, they have mounted an ongoing campaign of civil resistance against Israel's apartheid wall, which snakes through the West Bank, confiscating Palestinian farmland without compensation. The apartheid wall destroys the life and livelihoods of whole villages, literally setting in concrete the fractured geometry of Israel's incursions, her illegal settlements that eat away the integrity of any potential Palestinian state. In the spring of 2004, when the army was just beginning to bulldoze olive orchards and scrape land bare, the villagers of Masâ'Ha set up a peace encampment on the wall's route, inviting support from internationals and Israelis of good will. I've written elsewhere about what it was like to be there, encamped in one remaining grove under a full Passover moon, the despair of the bulldozers and the slim hope watching young Palestinians and Israelis sit together around a fire, sharing smokes and stories.

For six years, the movement has moved, from village to village, following the path of the wall. Six years of sparse and tiny victories - here and there, the route of the wall pushed back a few meters — but in Palestine, even the smallest victory stands out because it is so unusual, so different from the expected course of events. Like starving people who survive on crumbs, Palestinians nourish their determination to survive on even the smallest grains of success.

Mostly, I think, the movement survives because, in the face of horrific injustice, people need to do something. The vast majority of Palestinians do not want to strap on a suicide belt or pick up a gun. Contrary to all the stereotypes and racist assumptions, they don't want to kill, or be killed, for that matter. But they want to do something.

So they come to the wall. Children carry signs, women sit in front of bulldozers, men chant slogans and pray. Supported by a few internationals and a few determined Israelis, mostly ignored by the world's media, they face tear gas, rubber bullets, real bullets, arrests and beatings. And if the demonstrations have not yet stopped the wall nor won over the hearts of Israelis, they have at least given strength to the hearts of Palestinians and those who continue to hope against hope for some ultimate justice.

For that, many have died. Tristan, young though he seems to me, has had more of a life than Arafat Rateb Khawaje, who was shot in the back by Israeli forces at a demonstration in Niâ'lin on December 28, 2008, when he was only twenty two. On the same day, Mohammed Khawaje, aged twenty, was shot in the head with live ammunition. Brain dead, he lingered for three days until he died in a Ramallah hospital. And they, so young, still had more life behind them than Yousef Amira, only 17, who was shot with rubber-coated still bullets on July 29, 2008. And yet they, too, seem ancient compared to Ahmed Mousa, only 10, shot in the forehead with live ammunition on July 29, 2008.

And that is just the body count of one village, one year. I grieve for Tristan because he's a friend. I know him, I have marched with him shoulder to shoulder, sat in meetings with him, shared laughter and gossip and disbelief at the amount of liquor those British activists could put away. I feel for him in a way I should but can't, for those who are just names to me.

But I know that others do. Some mother grieves for Ahmed Mousa and will never fully recover from his loss. Some brother mourns for Khawaje, some father cries and rages over Yousef Amira's grave. Multiply that grief a thousand, thousand times and it explodes in rockets and suicide bombs. Yes, I also grieve for the Israeli victims of those bombs and rockets. But they cannot be stopped by walls, by land grabs and humiliations and injustice piled upon injustice, nor can they be silenced by the shrill voices who brand every critic of Israel an enemy.

Only justice can end the violence and bring peace and security to Palestinians and Israelis both. And it is time — it's long past time — for the clamor of international voices to demand real justice, for the continued violence now jeopardizes all of us.

So, here's what you can do. First, if you like most people are confused by the whole issue, educate yourself. Read a book — like Jimmy Carter's Israel: Peace, Not Apartheid which is about as fair and balanced a recent history as you'll find anywhere. Read my own website, Starhawk.org — on the Palestine page. Read the Israeli peace bloc — gush-shalom. org, or the reports from the International Solidarity Movement at palsolidarity.org. Speak out: Contact your representatives and demand a full, impartial investigation not just of Tristan's shooting but of the ongoing Israeli violence against unarmed demonstrators. But more than that, speak out on the issue. We need to build a clamor that is too loud to be silenced by the pro-Israel lobby. So—write Obama a note. Go onto his web page and send him a note. Do this often! http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/Support groups working for justice and peace — like the International Solidarity Movement, like the many groups working on campaigns for divestment or boycotts of Israeli goods. Al Awda is a national Right to Return campaign: http://www.al- awda.org/ Oberlin Students for Justice in Palestine has a great page of links: http://www.oberlin. edu/stuorg/ sfp/pages/ links.html

Shut Down The World Bank and IMF Meetings! April 24-26, Washington DC

Call to Action by Global Justice Action

As the economic crisis deepens and US foreclosure and unemployment rates climb, wealthy bankers and finance ministers from around the world scramble to resuscitate the financial institutions which created the crisis in the first place. This April the global elite, global financial institutions, and wealthy governments will meet to plan out billions of dollars worth of new economic bailouts for themselves while the nation's poor, the poor of the world, and working people are left with only crumbs. Billions of dollars have already been handed over to CEOs and portfolio managers, while workers' benefits and wages get slashed simultaneously. This trend will continue so long as capitalist expansion is prioritized over democratic principles, as long as profit is more important than people.

A better world is possible, a world in which our means of providing for ourselves is not controlled by a wealthy elite. A global order is possible in which the dignity of human life is placed above greed, and the living earth is shared and respected, rather than commodified and sold.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are two institutions that enforce the hyper-capitalist status quo. Since 1980, these institutions have been forcing countries to adopt neoliberal structural adjustment policies of privatization, liberalization and budget cuts. These policies are directly to blame for much of the suffering in the current financial crisis and in its predecessors in Argentina, East Asia, Russia and elsewhere. Though the IMF itself is beginning to admit its mistakes – it recently recommended that countries abandon market fundamentalist policies to directly intervene in their economies – it's understood that that advice only applies to the United States and European countries. Free markets for the poor and socialism for the rich is their mantra.

Neoliberal economics widens the sphere of imperialist capitalism, props up schemes of privatization, market liberalization and deregulation, and is ultimately to blame for this crisis. The World Bank and IMF are preeminent supranational institutions working to preserve the global financial order that puts profits, private gain, militarism, and gentrification over the needs of the people. Through their Structural Adjustment Programs - what they now refer to as "Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers" – these institutions have been destroying economies, local and global, for far too long. They must be stopped.

The World Bank and IMF will be holding their annual joint spring meetings April 24-26 in Washington DC. As they try to save themselves from global financial meltdown (or maybe just give themselves a few extra billion dollars) we all know better than to let them have all the fun without us. Join Global Justice Action to oppose these institutions, resist the dominant global order, and show that a better world is possible, free from neoliberalism, capitalism, and imperialism.

Global Justice Action embraces a diversity of tactics and will therefore be organizing a wide array of actions and events including coordinated direct actions and blockades, a mass permitted march, a people's forum, and a few other surprises! GJA will host community education events, arts workshops, trainings, and direct action meetings in the months leading up to April for the purposes of putting together a well coordinated, effective, inclusive weekend of actions that will hamper the plans of the 10,000 delegates.

Call For Unpermitted Marches From the SDAC

Some have been saying it all along... Some have just begun to see it in crisis...
A world in constant crisis, chained to desks and assembly lines, clear cuts and wastelands left in its wake... and they called it progress...and it collapsed. The suffering and disempowerment felt around the world everyday has become generalized in capitalist globalization. The age of globalization is the age of quiet total war.

They exploited us, traded us away, and left us to pick up the devastation. This world is a death machine, producing death and saying that this is what it means to have it work. Around the world thousands die everyday of preventable causes linked to poverty as we live lives of shallow material opulence obtained by selling our entire lives away in the channels opened up in some market, a market which guarantees poverty to most and complete objectification to the rest. And they say that it works... And it collapsed...

Work or starvation and for many work and starvation. They fenced off the world into property, fenced off the Earth itself and make us buy back the things which are already ours if we just decide to take them back. They made us dependent on markets for the basics of life... and it collapsed...

For all our subservience we got a world of poverty, wars, cultural meaninglessness, and wastelands. We are killing ourselves while we devastate the very planet which sustains us in a frantic race to the bottom. Capitalism is a race to see who can exploit more, extract more, cut more, and drill more, the fastest and make the most money doing it... and as a result the planet is a sinking ship. For every oil spill, every clear cut, every by-product dumped into a lake, every mountain blown up to mine coal, every war started, every sweatshop opened, every housing foreclosure, every lay-off, every eco-system leveled to build an upscale resort, every prisoner locked away, every culture destroyed, profit is made, and the drive for profit is destroying the planet while relegating us to lives slaved away in the offices, factories, and prisons of this world. And it collapsed... We are left to pay Wall Street for the money THEY lost and the lives THEY destroyed. We are left jobless, homeless, lifeless, and suffering the effects of THEIR failure, unless we refuse this fate.

We have a choice to make, stay on the sinking ship or turn and fight. The people that structure this destruction have faces and meetings. We intend to take the fight to them, and this is a fight for our world, a fight for our lives. April 24-26 in Washington DC the International Monetary Fund and World Bank will be holding their annual Spring meetings, and we will be in the streets waiting...

We are calling for a series of marches to shut down the meetings and strike a blow against the death machine, please "dress appropriately". Kick it till it breaks!

selfdescribedanarchist@riseup.net. SDAC: http://selfdescribed.org/
Global Justice Action: http://www.globaljusticeaction.org/

CLIMATE CRISIS ACTION DAY: OCTOBER 24

350.org is a group of people from around the planet—young and old, scientists, writers and activists—with one thing in common. We know the most important number on earth: 350. And we know how to get global action on the worst crisis humans have ever faced. But we can only do it if you help. A year ago, climatologist James Hansen of NASA and his team produced a series of studies showing that if we let carbon in the atmosphere top 350 parts per million, we can't have a planet "similar to the one on ... which life on earth is adapted." The bad news is we're already past that number—we're at 390 parts per million and climbing, which is why the Arctic is melting, why drought is spreading across the planet, why people are already dying from dengue fever and malaria in places where they've never been seen before. The good news: that number gives us a target to aim for. When the world's leaders meet in Copenhagen in December to reach agreement on a new climate treaty, we need them to go farther than they've planned to go. We need to make sure they'll pay attention to the latest science and put forward a plan that gets us back to safety. On October 24, we need you to organize an action where you live, something that will make that most important number visible to everyone. People in more than 1000 communities around the globe have already announced plans. There'll be school children planting 350 trees in Bangledesh, scientists hanging banners saying 350 on the statues on Easter Island, 350 scuba divers diving underwater at the Great Barrier Reef, and a thousand more creative actions like these.

At each event, people will gather for a big group photo that somehow depicts 350--and upload that photo to the web at **www.350.org**. As actions take place around the world, we'll link all the pictures together electronically via the web. By the end of the day, we'll have a powerful visual petition linking together the entire planet that we can deliver to the media and world leaders.

But it can only happen with the help of a global movement—and it's starting to bubble up everywhere. Farmers in Cameroon, students in China, even World Cup skiers have already helped spread the word about 350. This is like a final exam for human beings. Can we muster the courage, the commitment, and the creativity to set this earth on a steady course before it's too late? October 24 will be the joyful, powerful day when we prove it's possible. Sign up or learn more at www.350.org

Overhaul or Scrap ACESA: Too Much, Too Little, Too Late!

The Climate Crisis Coalition released a statement about the American Clean Energy Security Act, which would create a cap-and-trade system to manage carbon emissions. The provisions in ACESA's 1,000-plus pages do not add up to the steps needed to avert catastrophic climate disruption. The bill's emissions trading provisions create vested interests that would make future reforms very difficult. ACESA's "cap" on greenhouse gas emissions represents reductions of only 1-4% below 1990 levels by 2020, far less than climate scientists deem necessary. Offsets further weaken the cap. ACESA overwhelms its own cap by allowing up to two billion tons of dubious carbon "offsets" annually, with up to three-quarters from international sources. This would result in a price on carbon far too low to generate the changes in energy use necessary to avert catastrophe. Free allowances to utilities and energy intensive industries further undermine the needed shift to a low-carbon economy.

Trading combined with offsets will lead to speculative bubbles. ACESA's trading provisions would create a volatile $2 trillion carbon pollution market with unregulated derivatives that could crash financial markets again. ACESA's Renewable Energy Standard (RES) is watered down to just 15% by 2020, barely greater than "business-as-usual." Furthermore, ACESA defines "renewable energy" to include dirty sources such as waste incineration. Through free allowances and a hidden utility tax, the coal industry would receive approximately $150 billion over the bill's lifetime for "deployment" of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology that presently doesn't exist and may never materialize. If feasible, CCS would require far more mining, transportation and burning of coal to produce electricity. ACESA would also give approximately $24 billion to oil refiners under the pretext that the world's most profitable industry needs still more financial assistance. ACESA would preempt EPA's authority to regulate sources of greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act, while also overriding stronger laws at the state and regional levels. By disabling this regulatory backstop, ACESA ensures that if the bill is not changed or replaced, its failure as climate policy will be catastrophic.

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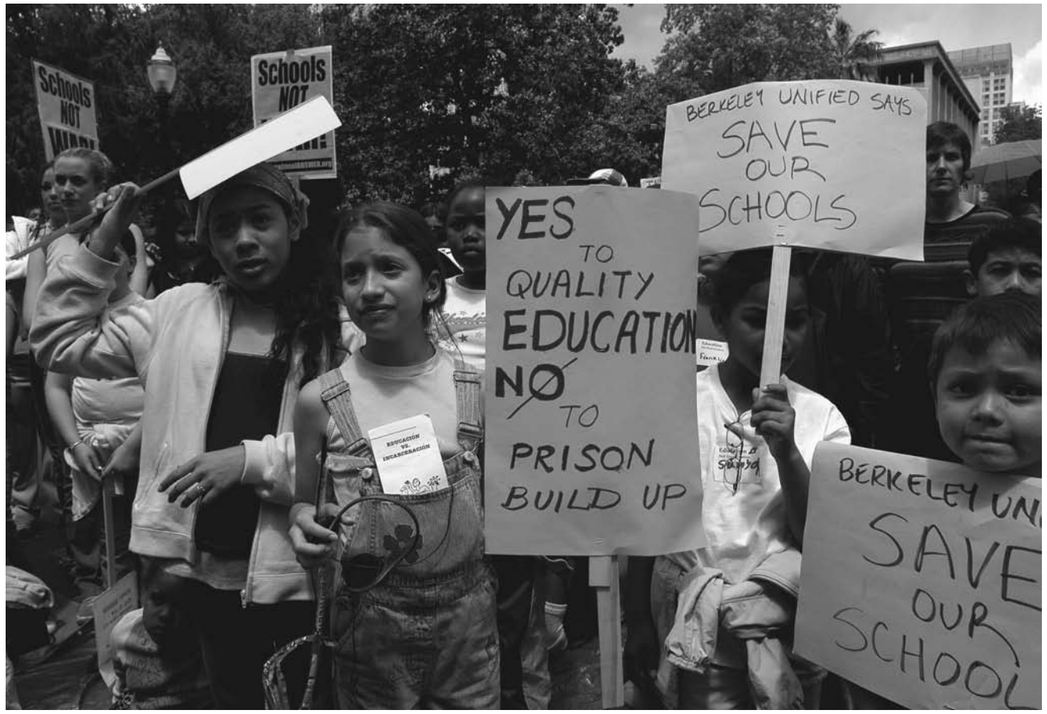

Education Not Incarceration!

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PART's Perspective:

The Three-Way Fight, the Third World War, and the End of the American Way of Life

by Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)

Robert Reich, a former cabinet officer in the Clinton administration recently posed the question, "When will the economic recovery begin?" and answered it, "Never." Reich, no anti-capitalist, nevertheless rightly understands that the economy can't "recover," because it can and will never return to where it was before the collapse. He suggests that a new economy must be developed. But few establishment political figures are so far-sighted. Economic contraction aside, the threat of global warming certainly necessitates a new economy to replace the unsustainable carbon-based industrial system. But Obama's "environmentalism" has been limited to some nostrums about "green jobs," and squeaking a climate and energy bill through the House that is too little, too late at best, and may actually worsen matters with its cap-and-trade free pollution licenses, and its embrace of so-called "clean coal." The Obama administration, with broad congressional support, is similarly committed to a patchwork of finance bail-outs, stimulus, reform, and minimal re-regulation as the way to muddle through the current economic crisis.

This only makes sense in the context of an unyielding strategy to pursue US economic hegemony and revival through war. Obama's "withdrawal" from Iraq would leave a semi-permanent US military garrison there, and his escalation in Afghanistan has spilled over into Pakistan. Despite this, Obama has launched a world-wide propaganda offensive in support of US imperialism in speeches in Europe, Africa and to the Muslim world. But the anti-war movement has been disgracefully quiet, and international public opinion polls assert that Obama enjoys unparalleled international popularity and esteem. This represents the corrupting power of the imperialist bribe and the hegemonic grip that identification with the Empire and the oppressor still maintains over the minds of the oppressed and exploited. Joe Biden, during the campaign, predicted that Obama would be 'tested' by some major foreign policy crisis within months of his election, yet this has not materialized. Instead, the administration has been able to talk out of both sides of its mouth on Honduras, where a military/political coup has exiled the president and proclaimed a counter-offensive against the Latin American left. Obama has similarly been able to portray himself as "reigning in" the excesses of the Israeli right while actually allowing Israel to stonewall on its genocidal tactics in Gaza and threaten Iran with bombing and cyber-warfare.

Meanwhile, through the mainstream media and the manipulation of "new media," US imperialism has been fishing in troubled waters itself in Iran. The emergence of a serious split within the Islamic Republic regime of the mullahs led to charges of a stolen election. Obama's "hands off" rhetoric on the unrest and repression in Iran contrasted with an aggressive neo-con campaign for regime change, and clandestine corporate and National Endowment for Democracy-style efforts to shape and spin the Iranian resistance. Unfortunately, some of the left responded to the unrest in Iran with an uncritical glorification of Mousavi and the protestors as the latest "color revolution" in the mold of the 'movements' to restore capitalism in the former socialist Eastern Europe. Others responded with a glorification of Ahmedinejad (and the Islamic Republic) as a "nationalist/populist" bulwark against US imperialism and Zionism, dismissing the protests as 'pro-West.'

The inadequacy of both of these responses brings to the fore the necessity for anti-racists, anti-fascists and anti-imperialists to embrace the perspective of a "three-way fight." As PART sees it, this entails uncompromising opposition to US imperialism and the corporate state, as well as counter-action against two inauthentic allegedly revolutionary ideologies of fascism and fundamentalist Islamic theocracy. That means that an analysis and position on what has been happening in Iran must commence with opposition to US imperialist and Zionist aggression against Iran, while simultaneously supporting the people of Iran in their revulsion against and resistance to the repressive theocratic (and capitalist) Islamic Republic.

The mullahs as a whole, despite their factions, are a new, corrupt and self-enriching ruling class in Iran, that despite its occasional anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist rhetoric, oppresses and exploits the people of Iran and in fact accommodates itself to imperialism and Zionism.

A little history is in order. Most people recognize that the overthrow of the Mossadegh government and installation of the Shah in a CIA-orchestrated coup was a triumph for US exploitation of Iran's oil resources and use of secret police repression to maintain Iran as a bulwark against Soviet expansion. But fewer in the west are aware of the role the mullahs played in undermining Mossadegh and ushering in the US-backed Shah. Fewer still recognize that when the Shah's regime began to collapse under challenge from clandestine secular and Muslim social-revolutionary guerrilla forces and moderate pro-Soviet socialists, as well as mass street actions, the US carefully vetted Ayatollah Khomeini. They ushered him back into Iran as they ushered the Shah out, and okayed the mullahs' theocratic regime as the best mechanism for throttling the authentic Iranian revolutionary forces in the name of the "Islamic Revolution." The US approved the transfer of the Shah's CIA-organized SAVAK secret police to the service of the mullahs' regime.

Subsequently, Khomeini carried out a bloody and torturous repression of the Iranian left and instituted a repressive regime that has repeatedly used torture, imprisonment and exile to stamp out opposition. Periodically various forms of 'reformism' and 'populism' have been authorized by the mullahs and legitimized via controlled elections, where all candidates must have the mullahs' approval, to provide the system with a new lease on life despite its contradictions with the Iranian people's real aspirations. Simultaneously, the regime has actually worked with the Zionists in Israel and the US Empire (as was fairly thoroughly exposed in the Iran-Contra affair under Reagan).

The backing of Khomeini, first by Carter and later by Reagan-Bush, was part and parcel of a general imperialist strategy in the late 1970s and early 1980s to support Muslim fundamentalism as a counter-insurgency mechanism against secular, social revolutionary and 'liberation theology' forces. It was paralleled by support for the Saudis, bin Laden and the Arab/Afghan mujaheddin, and for Hamas as an alternative to the PLO (particularly authentically anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist elements like the PFLP) in Palestine.

The recent split in Iran between factions of the ruling mullahs somewhat unexpectedly allowed a real revolutionary current to emerge among the Iranian populace (particularly the youth, 70% of the Iranian people being under the age of 30 and having known no other regime but the Islamic Republic). In the outpouring into the streets, obviously many ideologies and political opinions manifested themselves, ranging from supporters of Mousavi and 'reform,' to monarchists, and pro-westerners. But probably the largest current was a brave, militant cross-class opposition to the repressive, theocratic nature of the regime, and to corrupt self-serving among the mullahs and thuggery by its 'militias.' Even before the election and the subsequent street protests, there was a strong fight-back against repression of the labor movement and the arrests of union leaders involved with an independent May Day labor rally.

Some left supporters of the regime denounced the protesters as "secularized" students (as if "secular" were a dirty word). Others defended Ahmedinejad as a 'populist,' or boasted that Iran had, within the first 30 years of its revolution, held more presidential elections than the U.S. had. This willfully ignores the fact that the US had no president for many years after commencing its "revolution" for independence. The counter-revolution of the U.S. Constitutional Convention imposed a much stronger and more highly centralized state and executive authority and created the imperial Presidency. Presidential elections are no measure of people's power. 'Populism' is not an authentically revolutionary politic, but a demagogic method of attaining or retaining power by elites. What has emerged in Iran is a protracted struggle by a new generation. Its authentically social-revolutionary ideals, and opposition to the actually capitalist regime of the mullahs (which is in fact well-integrated into the global imperialist system) should be embraced and supported as a breach in the hegemony of the Empire.

Authentic anti-imperialists are anti-Zionist, but that does not mean embracing the phony anti-Zionism of either the Islamic Republic of Iran or that of the racist and neo-nazi right. Thus the question of a three-way fight emerges. Anti-authoritarian anti-racists, anti-fascists and anti-imperialists must oppose the Empire while simultaneously opposing reactionary and repressive ideologies and movements which claim to oppose the empire while they reserve their true fire for anti-capitalist social revolutionaries. Zionism is a form of settler colonialism allied to imperialism, but it is not the principal contradiction in the world today. The Zionist state operates according to its own interests, but it's a client of US imperialism, which can occasionally yank its leash. Arab reaction is a form of neo-colonialism equally aligned to imperialism, particularly US imperialism, and enjoys similar US support and military subsidies.

This is not to say there are no contradictions among imperialist and pro-imperialist forces. The contradiction that has emerged among factions in Iran is only one example of the many unresolvable and irreconcilable contradictions that plague the Empire. Another is the clash between the US and China. Both are preparing for war, because both know that sooner or later, contradictions under capitalism and imperialism manifest themselves in war. The US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and its hostility towards Iran and North Korea, must be understood in the context of a long range strategic effort to achieve the encirclement and isolation of China. The Chinese are engaged in their own military planning for such a conflict and their own counter-strategizing, including the economic penetration of Africa and Latin America, and military and diplomatic maneuvering with Russia, Pakistan, India and other international actors. The best way to avert that approaching war is to overturn the system of colonial-capitalism that requires endless war to survive. Its survival is our death and that of the planet itself.

Left forces in the US are not doing an adequate job of exposing these realities and contradictions or of developing our own independent strategy of overcoming them. We need direct action, political education and the building of a fighting capacity among oppressed, exploited and colonized people on many fronts simultaneously. We need anti-corporate and anti-statist action to protect the environment and develop a grassroots, cooperative, sustainable, ecologically-sound agriculture and economy. We need community self-defense capacities that can resist police state repression, daily brutality, and paramilitary operations that seek to supplement repressive state power with fascist activity.

In the six months since Obama came into office, we have seen a major increase in white nationalist, anti-semitic and reactionary violence, ranging from the killing of Dr. Tiller, the abortion provider, to racist violence against Mexicanos and migrants by Minuteman-type groups, to the deadly attack at the Dc Holocaust Museum, to lone wolf violence against Black people and other people of color, including Muslims, by white supremacists influenced by neo-nazi propagandists on the Internet whose rhetoric is increasingly being embraced, magnified and mainstreamed by establishment right wing politicians and corporate media hacks. This entails building revolutionary solidarity with anti-colonial forces inside the US as well as around the world, on the basis of respect for self-determination and of building alliances against a common enemy.

For people of European descent within the largest and most exploitative empire in the history of the world, that means making a break with privilege and the unsustainable "American Way of Life" (AWOL). The Empire is bleeding the life out of the planet and the vast majority of its people, destroying the atmosphere and the oceans. In the name of humanity and of life itself, the Empire, capitalism and colonialism, must be brought down once and for all. To do so, all revolutionary-minded people must examine and overcome our own weaknesses and past failures, our identification with the oppressor and complicity in our own oppression, and understand the world as it exists today. Iran is not alone in having the vast majority of its people born subsequent to the defeat of the revolutionary upsurge of the past and the imperialist counter-offensive that brought us to the present critical moment. The hope and prospect of the future is in a new generation inheriting this world and intent on freeing themselves and preserving the planet.

Editor's note: TTT is reprinting here an opinion piece from the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist Movement-Denver in the interest of promoting further discussion and debate of their perspective, not in full agreement with it. On the one hand, RAIM-D has a pertinent criticism to make of Jensen and other critics of white privilege who are trapped within the ideological bonds of allegiance to the US and Empire more generally, often self-described as "progressives." On the other hand, RAIM-D seems to fall victim to the error of seeing imperialism as in a sense something entirely external to the U.S., and seeing the U.S. itself as an undifferentiated whole. Either of these perspectives leads to a kind of despair about the prospect of revolutionary change emerging in the belly of the beast itself. *ARA-LA/PART* takes a different view, based on the reality and history of anti-colonial and anti-imperialist struggle inside the U.S. itself, and the irreconcilable contradiction between the Empire and the land and people it exploits, oppresses and colonizes. This colonialism exists not only in the so-called Third and Fourth Worlds, or "South," but inside the U.S. itself, which is a patchwork of stolen lands and conquered, colonized, enslaved and imported peoples, who continue to resist. The sovereign rights to the land of Turtle Island by the First Nations of North America, the independence struggle of Puerto Rico, the Hawai'ian sovereignty movement, the struggle to liberate occupied northern Mexico, the movement for New Afrikan/Black self determination, and other similar phenomena, including struggles inside the gulag of prison colonies around the U.S., are inextinguishable anti-colonial struggles inside the entrails of the "homeland" of the Empire. Just as class allies of the Empire exist within the so-called South or Third World, fighting forces of anti-imperialism have a material base inside the so-called North or First World. Putting anti-colonialism and internationalist and inter-communal solidarity at the heart of anti-imperialism, anti-racism and anti-fascism gives us the basis to dramatically crack open the contradictions of the Empire and move forward. Such struggles will weaken the Empire from 'within' and make the struggle outside the borders much less costly. What is necessary is for forces committed to liberation inside the current borders of the US to ***overcome*** defeatism and despair through a thorough-going analysis and self-criticism of our past weaknesses and losses, and to regain a sense of our own power and vitality. We invite response.—***Editor.***

Review of 'The Old Future's Gone: Progressive Strategy Amid Cascading Crisis,' a talk by Robert Jensen

by the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist Movement Denver (RAIM-D)

Last month, author and activist Robert Jensen spoke in Denver at an event sponsored by Argusfest. His speech was entitled "The Old Future's Gone: Progressive Strategy amid Cascading Crisis." It was based on a writing that has circulated among left-liberal websites. A professor of journalism at the University of Texas in Austin, he also has written many books and articles on topics such as imperialism, capitalism, white privilege and patriarchy. He doesn't quite go to our line, but he at least asks the right questions and approaches the right topics. Because of this, a few members of RAIM went to check out the event.

At best his talk could be summed up as eclectic with a sub-reformist emphasis. Jensen also carries a sense of honest despair, admitting he sees little in the way of widespread, fundamental change. Rather than seeking out revolutionary means to revolutionary ends, he instead prefers to deal in ways in which he feels he's made a more immediate (though irrelevant and fleeting) impact.

When prodded by a RAIM comrade, Jensen admitted that the First World benefits from the exploitation of the Third World. When asked how this phenomenon of entire populations benefiting from others related to and could perhaps be overcome by local projects, he didn't have an answer. When asked about a solution in putting local projects to tackling this global issue of exploitation, he said the question was too big and too complicated to solve.

Jensen's inability to answer straight questions was illuminating as to the level of confusion within the Amerikan left, even among its intellectuals. Jensen is one of the better intellectuals on the left, as he critiques metaphysical liberal ideas in favor of more radical analyses. Jensen's desire for revolutionary change is in some ways genuine, though Jensen himself is unable to come up with an effective model for widespread fundamental change. Instead he promotes feel-good sub-reformism in the form of local projects, something he himself admits won't work all the time. As once stated by Stokely Carmichael (later known as Kwame Ture), "Confusion is the greatest enemy of revolution."

Much of this confusion can be seen in the trappings of left First World-ism. Many on the left nominally go against imperialism while simultaneously campaigning to make Amerikans even better off. Jensen falls into this camp: he wants a better world but doesn't want to alienate Amerikans. The truth is, Amerikans benefit from the global capitalist economic system as it is and have little material interest in working to create a new one. This in part explains why revolutionary change seems so untenable within Amerika, even to those who genuinely desire it.

Unlike Jensen, we at RAIM apply global class analysis fully. Doing simple math, Amerika is only 5 percent of the world population but the consumer of over 25 percent of the world's resources. The poorest half of the world lives on less than $2 a day, and the bottom 1.3 billion live on less than $1 a day. Although Jensen admits this, RAIM-Denver plainly says the obvious truth and takes it to its logical end: Amerikans are part of the problem. They are a force which must be overcome during the course of progressive change.

Unlike Jensen, who is fruitlessly engaged in various forms of pandering to a population of petty exploiters and polluters, RAIM champions the cause of the world's exploited and oppressed majority as the most direct route to creating a new world.

In talking about strategies for change, Jensen sees the Amerikan left engaged in three types: electoral politics, movement politics and local projects. He sees no use in electoral politics. Movement politics have their limits also, especially in their emphasis on protest marches. Bringing up the February 15, 2003 worldwide marches against the invasion of Iraq, the largest coordinated protests in history, which the *New York Times* said made world opinion 'a second superpower,' he noted that they did nothing to stop that war.

He sees more hope in local projects, things like community gardens and such. According to Jensen, the potential for dialogue and debate among others is increased in local projects, though he didn't specify to what concrete end. The example he raised, as his own effort with local projects, was a worker-owned cafe in Austin, though he admitted this effort failed to get off the ground.

While we understand the frustrations in observing the seemingly immovable state of Amerika and the world, the lack of radicalism in Amerikan mass politics, and the inability for radicals to act effectively in a minoritarian context, there were limits to Jensen's insights beyond this.

At one point, Jensen said that he struggles to identify as part of humanity and not as Amerikan, white or male. In reality, to stand with humanity is to stand against Amerika and the First World.

The First World is destroying the planet and exploiting its people. On a structural level, this mean that the principal antagonism is between imperialism and the people of exploited nations. Exploitation-driven consumption and related environmental destruction affect the Third World the most, while benefits, even indirectly, trickle up to the First World.

The solution for this problem isn't for those in the First World to engage in local projects. Rather, real change will come when Third World peoples wrestle stolen wealth out of the hands of First World imperialists. While this includes worker-owned industry on the part of currently exploited people, history has proven that this itself requires a fight and involves actual confrontations. Amerikans are not simply going to stop being exploiters: unlike the fluffy revolution of values Jensen dreams up, revolutions actually require revolution.

Blog: raimd.wordpress.com/
email: raim-d@hush.com

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Portland Anti-Racists Raise Awareness about Local Neo-Nazis

by Rose City Anti-Fascists

Nearly eight months have passed since Rose City Antifa "out-ed" four local neo-Nazi organizers associated with a white supremacist group called Volksfront (see article here: http://portland.indymedia.org/en/2008/08/379057.shtml). Since that time, Volksfront leader Randall Krager and his wife Abbie have abandoned Portland and moved across the country -- our condolences to the state of Florida. Neo-nazi thugs Justin Martin and Nick Scheel were exposed at their residences and employment. As a result of local people stepping up and showing these bigots the door, our communities are safer, smarter, and welcoming to a wider variety of people.

But it isn't time to celebrate yet. In April Volksfront helped organize two national white power events--an East Coast gathering hosted in conjunction with the group East Coast White Unity (which was booted from its initial venue due to the vigilance of anti-racists), plus a VF/"Blood & Honour American Division" gathering held on Volksfront-owned land in Missouri. While Volksfront was founded in Portland, the organization now operates on a national and even international basis. When they recruit and organize, we respond.

Rose City Antifa is now pleased to bring you further information on local Nazi organizers. You may remember Nicholas Alton Scheel, AKA "Nazi Nick", from our last campaign. Nazi Nick is a violent hate-monger who has a long history of disgusting behavior, including domestic violence, racial intimidation and assault, possession of illegal firearms, and threatening the life of a multi-racial baby. He is now sharing a residence with Nick Cheshire, AKA "Young Volksfront Nick", a newer member of Volksfront that recently moved here from California. The two are currently living at 3420 SE 57th Ave, just north of Powell Boulevard and about three blocks south of Franklin High School. Their landlord, who recently passed away, was james Copp, who had previously rented to other nazis. As it turns out, Copp's daughter Patty used to date Kyle Brewster. She was with him on the night that Brewster were involved in the attack that killed Ethiopian immigrant Mulugeta Seraw in 1998. In fact, it was James Copp's baseball bat that Ken Mieske used to land the fatal blows.

Volksfront remains one of the most significant neo-Nazi organizations in our state, and has an explicit mission to turn the Pacific Northwest into a white-only "homeland". The organization preys on disenfranchised youth that are looking for answers. In this time of economic crisis and uncertainty Volksfront provides a clear and easy solution: blame it on the "other".

We feel that Volksfront will have a much harder time actively organizing if the community is made aware of their presence. The organization thrives in secrecy, and trades in ignorance. Rose City Antifa sent a mailing to two hundred addresses in the immediate vicinity of Nick Scheel and Nick Cheshire's home. Alongside a flyer about these two neo-nazis, we included a poster with an anti-racist message, which we hope local businesses and residences will display, to show community solidarity across racial lines.

We encourage anyone with further information on Volksfront or other white supremacist groups in Oregon to contact Rose City Antifa. Our voicemail number is 971.533.7832 and our email is fight_them_back@riseup.net. For help in identifying local neo-nazis, see the photo albums here: http://portland.indymedia.org/en/2008/11/381963.shtml

Rose City Antifa: Statement on Anti-Semites and their Collaborators

Recent events have highlighted the fact that anti-Semitic organizers in Portland, Oregon are relying on "Leftist" spaces and groups to tolerate their efforts and ideology. On Wednesday, June 10, Valdas Anelauskas, a self-described "white separatist" who is involved with Holocaust-denial circles, gave a presentation to a group of sympathizers in Portland, Oregon. The event was sponsored by the Portland 9/11 Truth Alliance, and was initially scheduled to take place at the Laughing Horse Book & Video Collective.

Members of Rose City Antifascists ("Antifa") —the Portland affiliate of the Anti-Racist Action Network—were among those who contacted Laughing Horse Books about the scheduled event. The Laughing Horse collective canceled the anti-Semitic event within 48 hours of being notified about its true nature. Subsequently the Portland 9/11 Truth Alliance moved Anelauskas' talk—on the topic of "The Frankfurt School and Cultural Marxism"—to a secondary venue, which was also discovered by Antifa and then persuaded to cancel on the day of the event. Unfortunately, Anelauskas' talk then went ahead at a third venue, a restaurant obviously booked at the last minute.

Valdas Anelauskas is a "racialist" (read: racist) activist currently based in Eugene, Oregon. This Lithuanian immigrant has assisted the World Anti-Communist League, an organization that supported Latin American death squads and has harbored former Nazi collaborators. Anelauskas is now active in the Pacifica Forum, a Eugene, Oregon organization which hosts Holocaust-denial speakers such as David Irving plus Mark Weber of the Institute for Historical Review. Anelauskas himself claims that the evidence for the Holocaust is "shaky", that Jewish people are responsible for "Bolshevism", and that the infamous Protocols of the Elders of Zion are credible. Anelauskas' position on Jewish people is clear: "Only from people of that peculiar tribe can we expect such Talmudic hatred for humanity. There is even a famous saying that wars are the Jews' harvest."

While Portland 9/11 Truth Alliance activist Tim Titrud was one organizer for Anelauskas' talk in Portland, Titrud appears to have been assisted by a cast of several others, especially Tim Calvert, who is well-known in Portland as a co-founder of Laughing Horse Books as well as the Citybikes Workers' Cooperative. Calvert's conspiracy theories about Jewish power, and his denial of the Nazi genocide against the Jewish people, have been an open secret in Portland for years.

Footage of Anelauskas' speech, including an introduction by Tim Calvert, is available at the following link: http://www.mefeedia.com/entry/pdx-9-11-truth-on-frankfurt-school-cultural-marxism-in-america/19360151

The anti-Semitic, racist and fascistic nature of Anelauskas' presentation is obvious. We would like to note, however, Tim Calvert's insinuation during the introduction that his critics are actually state agents—an extremely dangerous claim to make in the absence of any evidence. Rose City Antifa strongly opposes attempts to make excuses for anti-Semitism, or to pretend that it is any less poisonous than any other form of racism. Anelauskas' speaking event in Portland took place on the same day that white supremacist James von Brunn opened fire at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, murdering a security guard there.

By making its anti-Semitism explicit, and by organizing in association with racists, fascists and Holocaust-deniers, the Portland 9/11 Truth Alliance has shown its true colors. It has cleared up any confusion in anti-fascist ranks about how we should consider the organization.

With all this stated, we applaud the Laughing Horse Books collective for its brave decision to cancel the Anelauskas event at the store. We have now received information that Tim Calvert has retired from Laughing Horse Books, although this may or may not actually be the case. Needless to say, we believe that Laughing Horse should not host any future events of the Portland 9/11 Truth Alliance. We also believe that most of the Laughing Horse Books collective have acted commendably so far.

Rose City Antifa calls for the Citybikes Workers' Cooperative to remove Tim Calvert from the co-op, and to thereby stop putting food on his plate. We believe that those pushing organized Jew-hatred and pogrom politics should be collectively resisted. If a collective or co-op can't deal properly with an anti-Semitic activist within its ranks, then it does not deserve to be supported.

Other organizations involving Tim Calvert, such as the Cascadia Education Project, are also advised to take notice. This statement is a beginning; other fascist collaborators should not consider themselves to have been let off the hook in any way. No compromise and no half-measures!

The future is anti-racist!

Note: The Citybikes Coop issued the following statement in response [excerpts]:
Response to charges brought forth by Rose City Antifa regarding Tim Calvert
by Citybikes Workers' Cooperative, 734 & 1914 SE Ankeny St., Portland, OR 97214, 503-239-6951/503-239-0553

This letter is being presented in response to the allegations leveled at Tim Calvert by the organization calling itself Rose City Antifa. Tim Calvert was one of the people responsible for transforming Citybikes from a sole proprietorship into a worker-owned cooperative in 1990. Tim is well known in the Cooperative for his years of political organizing and for his political and social points of view on a wide range of topics, some of which appear quite controversial to the casual observer. The beauty of working in a cooperative business structure is that no one here gets away with being a casual observer for very long. Sooner or later, members of a cooperatively run business MUST find a way to grow their maturity to a level that insists on and welcomes diversity of thought and belief, inclusion of multiple perspectives and creative, cooperative problem-solving. Sexism, racism and other forms of personal oppression have no place at Citybikes. Tim has always respected the diversity of thought, belief and religious observance that is to be found here. We have never heard him say anything that could be construed as anti-Semitic, or really anti- anything else, for that matter. Several members of Citybikes' Workers Cooperative are of Jewish heritage and at least one is a religiously observant Jew. None of us has ever felt that Tim did not accept us for our heritage or religious practices. The one thing we know Tim to be firmly against is any organization, institution or ideology that requires lockstep thought and action; we applaud this sort of thinking as the natural by-product of embracing a cooperative structure and learning to work with its many nuances, agreements and disagreements. …We would like to point out that the RCA's insistence that Citybikes vote Tim out of the Cooperative is, firstly, illegal. A person cannot be fired from his employment for his political, religious or philosophical views. Finally, we find it more than a little ironic that a self-labeled "antifascist" organization would resort to harassment and intimidation to achieve their ends. We support Tim Calvert as a member of the Cooperative.
Sincerely, The Board of Directors, Citybikes Workers' Cooperative

[***Editor's Note:*** Citybikes seems to go out of its way here to provide cover to Calvert, with the classic "some of his best [co-workers] are Jewish" line, while discounting the specifics of his organizing an anti-semitic event. This seems to contradict their claim that sexism, racism and "other forms of …oppression have no place" there.]

Shut down One Life Crew!
No Racists, No Homophobes in Our Scene!

By Jay, Philly ARA

On June 6th, the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia was scheduled to play host to One Life Crew; a racist, homophobic hardcore band from Cleveland, Ohio. The band has an extensive history of racist, sexist, and homophobic lyrics, as well as a record of extreme violence at their shows. One Life Crew was dropped by their record label Victory Records after a show in Cleveland where the singer "Mean" Steve Murad leaped from the stage to attack an audience member who took exception to the band's racist lyrics.

Making matters worse, One Life Crew has a rabid neo-nazi following, most likely attributed to their split 7" record with white power band Empire Falls. Here in Philadelphia, there is no doubt that the Keystone State Skinheads (KSS) - whose members have been convicted on various assault and weapons charges – would have attended the show in force. KSS had been talking about this show on their online forum since it was first announced, and Keith Carney, their Eastern Pennsylvania Regional Director, lists One Life Crew among his favorite bands and has made it clear that he would be attending the show.

Philadelphia Anti-Racist Action asserted that One Life Crew had no right to spread their hate-filled rhetoric anywhere in Philadelphia, least of all at the First Unitarian Church - a religious institution that prides itself on being an official "Welcoming Congregation" and purports to be "intentionally diverse" and " inclusive towards bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people" according to its' website. However, they were willing to let homophobes and racists perform at their church, taking away any sense of safety for people of color and the LGBTQ community at large.

Reverend Nate Walker of the First Unitarian Church told Philly ARA in a phone conversation that the church would not "censor its tenants." In the face of this statement and apparent blatant hypocrisy of everything the Unitarian Church claims to stand for, we asked all Philadelphians to express their concern and anger about this show directly to Reverend Nate. We also encouraged concerned community members to contact various church departments and members of the Board of Trustees, as well as Sean Agnew of R5 Productions (sean@r5productions.com) and Joe Hardcore (joehardcore@gmail.com) to express disgust at trying to bring One Life Crew to Philly. We urged people to call and email the First Unitarian Church and R5 Productions: be angry, be firm, but be legal.

In response to this campaign, Rev. Nate issued a pastoral letter defending his decision and accusing ARA of "binary thinking." Due to concern for keeping the First Unitarian Church a safe space for all, dozens of people from across the country - including members of other Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations and their ministers - contacted Rev. Nate Walker and the Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia church. In the end, the story was picked up by several media outlets and even more pressure was mounted against Reverend Walker's church for considering to allow this event to happen on their property. Eventually the community education effort had the desired effect. The show was canceled.

On Saturday May 30th, members of Philadelphia Anti-Racist Action and One People's Project met with Reverend Walker, representatives of the church's Board of Trustees, congregation members and two representatives from the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations. After introductions were made, all parties were given a chance to air their grievances face to face. There was an overall agreement that there had been a breakdown in communication between ARA and Reverend Walker, resulting in ARA's decision to issue a national statement asking those concerned to call both the local church and its national leadership in Boston.

While Reverend Walker disagrees, ARA maintains that while One Life Crew, R5 Productions, Friends Stand United (FSU) and even Keith Carney - the local head of the neo-nazi group Keystone State Skinheads (KSS) - were all "invited to the table" to discuss this show, attempts were made to marginalize ARA as an "extremist" group. It was not until after ARA issued its call and the pressure mounted on the First Unitarian Church to cancel the show that we were also invited to dialogue with Reverend Nate. Reverend Walker was taking KSS and FSU at face value - going so far as to believe Keith Carney's story that he is not a neo-Nazi without any evidence supporting such an insane claim. ARA believed it was time to inform the larger UU community, and proceeded to contact other congregations and ministers across the country as well as national UU leadership.

We see nothing extreme about wanting a band with a history of lyrical and physical attacks on people of color and persons from the LGBTQ community shut down! We also see nothing wrong with informing community members at large - many of whom obviously shared our concerns - about this scheduled event. We say this because in all initial communication, Reverend Walker stated that while he could cancel the show, he had no intention of doing so. Instead he claimed that dialogue with One Life Crew - a group who chooses to engage in hate speech - was the correct tactic.

ARA respects the fact that different people and groups have different tactics. However, we will make no apologies for our tactics. Further, we believe that the fact that One Life Crew will not be playing in Philadelphia proves that our tactics do work and that our decision to take our case about One Life Crew outside the walls of the First Unitarian Church was a solid one. In fact, some of the church's own Board members and congregation members who were in attendance at Saturday's meeting agreed with us that the UU should never even have considered hosting this show, and thanked ARA for ultimately bringing it to their attention.

Reverend Walker and some congregation members have expressed concern that ARA had hurt the "good name" of the church. ARA reiterates its position that at no time was our goal to harm the reputation of the church. We wanted to bring immediate, direct attention to what we believe was not only a hesitancy to shut down the show, but an indication that the show would go on as planned, to the detriment of what is supposed to be a safe space.

We express our desire to count both the Unitarian Church and Rev. Walker as our ally - not as our enemy. However, as we made clear to him at Saturday's meeting, we maintain that in this instance we believe his decisions were part of the problem. Philadelphia ARA will continue to organize around these important issues and hope to be able to work with the church's progressive community in the future. We also hope that Rev. Walker will continue to investigate the information we provided that not only do neo-nazis regularly attend shows at the church, but that they regularly engage in recruiting and violent acts. No matter how innocent R5 Productions and FSU try to make these white supremacists' continued attendance at shows, the fact remains that people have been violently attacked outside R5 shows on several occasions. We implore Rev. Nate to join us in doing something before this problem gets even worse.

This is an on-going problem, not only in Philadelphia but nationally. The One Life Crew show in Philly was stopped, but they planned a show the next Friday in Cleveland OH and threatened to make the show a rally for their beliefs. They have been online attacking ARA on several hardcore music message boards and have just used their racist hype to get signed to a major label, a subsidiary of Eulogy records & Warner Brothers. Check it out at www.doubleornothing records.com These guys are serious about spreading their hate; even the Double or Nothing Records website promotes it as "16 years of HATE." We need to get Warner Brothers to not sell One Life Crew cds and to stop profiteering off racism and homophobia!

Contact Philadelphia Anti-Racist Action at araphilly@gmail.com or 215-543-3812

David Irving's Holocaust-Denial Speaking Tour: The Show that Must Not Go On

This July, David Irving, a British neo-fascist and fraudulent historian, goes on the road in the United States, planning to hold approximately one and a half dozen speaking engagements over the course of a month. As militant anti-racists and anti-fascists, we are making a public call for resistance at each stop along the way of this tour. David Irving is a British writer of histories who has been involved with the fascist political scene since the 1960s. Always known for the pro-Hitler bias of his books, approximately two decades ago Irving made the transition to being a fully-fledged Holocaust-denier, when he testified at the trial of neo-Nazi Ernst Zündel in Canada, and also arranged the publication of Fred Leuchter's widely-refuted report on gas chambers at Auschwitz.

In addition to spreading blatant historical lies, Irving has publicly stated that "The Jews are the architects of their own misfortune". Unsurprisingly, Irving has been an extremely popular speaker at neo-Nazi rallies in Germany. In the British libel case Irving v. Penguin Books and Lipstadt, the final ruling in favor of the defendants confirmed that Irving "is an active Holocaust denier" and that "he is anti-Semitic and racist and that he associates with right-wing extremists who promote neo-Nazism." In 2006, Irving was jailed in Austria after pleading guilty to a charge of "trivializing the Holocaust", which is a crime in that county. Since his release, Irving has been marketing himself as a former "political prisoner".

Irving's current tour focuses on ""Re-writing history, using the decoded Nazi messages" (see: http://www. focal. org/speaks/index.html). The re-writing of Third Reich history-especially in relation to the Nazi "Final Solution" for Europe's Jewish population-is a major preoccupation for modern neo-Nazis and neo-fascists, who correctly believe that memory of the Holocaust is a significant barrier to the mainstreaming of their beliefs. The Holocaust is denied so that, paradoxically, genocide can be repeated. Wherever Irving appears, he is backed and promoted by virulent anti-Semites and fascist organizers. Irving's bogus history is both blatantly offensive and incorrect. However, we oppose Irving not for what he thinks, but rather for what he does. As the name of his own publishing project suggests, Irving serves as a "focal point" to bring Jew-haters and goose-steppers together.

He is part of a political tendency that is actively organizing for ethnic and racial hostilities, and in particular to persecute Jewish people. (James von Brunn's murder of a Black security guard at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is one recent example of where this anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi tendency can lead. Von Brunn moved within many of the same circles that promote Irving's work.)

We believe that fascist activism and movement-building should meet with organized resistance. We invite you to help this effort along, by organizing in your own community. As we go to press, remaining dates for Irving's speaking tour are as follows:

July 16: Spokane, July 18: Seattle, July 19: Portland, July 22: Sacramento, July 23: San Francisco, July 25: Costa Mesa, July 26: Sherman Oaks, July 29: Denver, July 30: Omaha, July 31: Chicago.

The exact location of Irving's talk in each city has not been made public, due to Irving's fear of encountering the opposition he so richly deserves. Any determined group of individuals ought to be able to pinpoint the event location in their city, however. Many of these events are probably booked under false pretexts, and venue owners may not necessarily know whom they are hosting.

Nazis Not Welcome: Anti-fascist Victory in Houston

by Brad, Houston ARA

On June 27, 2009 in Houston, TX, white supremacists intended to hold a memorial for a dead nazi creepball, David Lane. Lane was a member of an armed white supremacist group called the Order, also known as the *Bruder Schweigen* (Silent Brotherhood). He kicked the bucket in federal prison in 2007, where he was serving time for the murder of Jewish radio host Allen Berg of Colorado. Lane was the author of the so-called "14 words" slogan of neo-nazis, often used in nazi numerology along with "88" (code for "HH" – Heil Hitler!). Many messages on nazi boards end "14/88" as a sign-off.

When the so-called "Aryan Front Line Skinheads" [sic-boneheads] declared their intention to distribute copies of Dave's racist rants in the Houston area, antifascists immediately went on the alert. The boneheads tried to be clever by waiting until 11:00 PM the night before to post an actual location, but antifa were already standing by. The call went out, and in the morning our scouts were on location at the downtown federal building where the fascist goons planned to gather. Antifascists from around the city began gathering in a downtown park at 10 am. By eleven there were over 40 of us, and still no sign of the nazis.

With the boneheads beginning to look like a no-show, we marched to the nazi gathering spot to commemorate David Lane's death in our own way - with a large banner reading: "The only good fascist is a dead fascist!" We stood in the pounding Texas sun ready and waiting, the different groups who had answered the antifa call chatting and bonding with each other. With noon approaching and still no sign of the 'fash,' we began to disperse, leaving scouts posted.

About ten minutes after the large antifa demonstration dispersed, a blue pickup truck pulled up and a woman with various swastika tattoos was spotted getting out with three klansmen in goatees. We recognized the woman from our intel files as Kensa Chandler, a nazi bonehead who moved to Houston from Los Angeles several years ago. The scouts sounded the alarm and antifa began to reconvene around the corner. Now about 25 strong, we rounded the corner and descended on the fascists before they even had a chance to finish unpacking. Still sitting on their truck preparing literature, the white supremacists were completely surrounded by antifascists chanting "Nazis go home!"

As they began to cross the street, we split into two groups and kept them completely surrounded. For about ten minutes, Kensa tried to give a speech about her murderous hero to an empty street, while more and more of the antifascists made their way back to the scene. All the while, our spirited chants of "No nazis, no KKK, no fascist USA" echoed off the tall downtown buildings. Finally, the understanding that they had been completely outmaneuvered penetrated the thick skulls of the nazi goons. They got back into their truck and made a quick exit, without having handed out a single flier.

Houston Anti-Racist Action would like to thank everyone who answered our emergency callout and helped stop these cretins in their tracks. By confronting the fascists now, while they are scattered and disorganized, we keep them from growing to the point where they are bombing and murdering like their sociopath "hero" David Lane. Shout outs to Houston ISO, Progressive Workers Organizing Committee, Texas RASH, Sedition Collective and all the courageous individuals who helped keep Houston's streets nazi-free!

ARA calls demonstration against Aryan Guard in Calgary

by Lev, ARA Calgary

Anti-Racist Action (ARA) Calgary is calling on residents of the Kensington, Sunnyside and Hillhurst neighborhoods and other concerned people to take a stand against racist violence in their community. There's been a definite increase in violence and recruitment efforts by the Aryan Guard in the area, especially in and around Riley Park. ARA Calgary recently announced a peaceful anti-racist rally outside the Plaza Theatre (1133 Kensington Road NW) to take place between 1-3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 27 at Riley Park to demonstrate that Calgary won't tolerate racism and violence of the neo-Nazi gang in their communities any longer.

The Aryan Guard's recruitment effort, which is aimed specifically at turning teenagers into virulent racists, is only one of the disturbing aspects of the gang's increased presence in the area. At least three people, including a homeless man, have recently been severely beaten after members and associates of the Aryan Guard were seen prowling the area armed with baseball bats. The attacks, which often occur in broad daylight and on busy streets, seem to demonstrate that the gang does not fear repercussions from city police. Aside from one hollow comment by Mayor Dave Bronconnier when the Aryan Guard formed almost three years ago, both the Calgary Police Service and City Hall have been ominously silent regarding the gang's activities despite repeated and blatant illegal activity. As ARA says in its points of unity, we can't rely on the cops and the courts. Members of the Aryan Guard have repeatedly been accused, and sometimes convicted, of numerous race-related crimes in the city, including assault and attempted murder.

But despite this long history of violence, police insist on ignoring the threat to the community presented by the gang, even trying to justify their lack of action by smearing ARA in an attempt to delegitimize the group. "Calgarians" can't count on police or elected officials to deal with the problem of racism in our city. It's time for members of our community to come together in the spirit of solidarity and mutual aid to confront the threat presented by the Aryan Guard at the grassroots level. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact ARA Calgary at **antiracistcalgary@gmail.com.**

Anti-Racist Action Network International Anti-Fascist Gathering, October 9-12, Pittsburgh PA

Across the U.S. and Canada, racist and fascist violence is on the increase. Anti-immigrant, anti-Black, anti-gay, anti-Jewish, anti-Mexican, anti-woman forces have stepped up from racist and sexist rhetoric to murder. Recent incidents abound. A racist anti-Semite killed a Black guard at the US Holocaust Museum. A racist militia off-shoot of the anti-immigrant Minutemen killed a little Mexicana girl in a home invasion. A racist former "Freeman" militia member turned anti-abortion zealot murdered abortion provider Dr. Tiller. Racist radio host Hal Turner was busted for threatening the lives of judges. Klansman and White Aryan Resistance member Dennis Mahon and his twin brother were charged in the fatal bombing in AZ. In San Bernardino, a Muslim was killed in an arson attack while cleaning up swastikas and other racist graffiti at his vandalized home. Activists suspect the involvement of racists stationed at a nearby military base, as nazi organizing inside the US military has increased. A 22-year-old man carried out a racially motivated rape and murder spree in Brockton, MA the day after Barack Obama was inaugurated as the first Black president of the US. He told cops he was inspired by the white nationalist website Podblanc, which encourages "lone wolf" nazi killings and racial attacks.

Meanwhile, the new figurehead for the Empire has renewed and extended imperialist war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Racist police violence and killings have reached a crescendo in the US and Canada. Now more than ever, we need an organized anti-racist and anti-fascist response and counter-offensive.

This fall, anti-racists and anti-fascists from across the US and Canada will be meeting up at the annual ARA Network gathering in Pittsburgh PA for several days of political discussion, training, unity-building and strategizing. If you identify with or are interested in the type of direct-action anti-racist and anti-fascist action, education, and organizing that ARA is involved in, come join us. This is an opportunity to meet face to face, to assess the state of our work, and to advance to meet the challenges that face us. The conference is being hosted by the ARA-affiliated Greater Pittsburgh Anarchist Collective (GPAC). Contact GPAC for more details on registration, housing and other issues related to the conference. Write to 5001 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224, check out www.gpacattack.org, or email info@gpacattack.org for more information, or check out the ARA network website, www.antiracistaction.org for up-to-the-minute details. The ARA Network wants to make this conference an opportunity for unaffiliated ARA chapters, like-minded organizations, and independent anti-racists and fascists to come together with network-affiliated ARA chapters to build the strong movement necessary in these hard times. ARA has an anti-authoritarian political structure of autonomous chapters and includes various political tendencies that unite in a non-sectarian fashion around our principles of unity. Here they are:

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) WE GO WHERE THEY GO: Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there.
We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!
2) WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US: This doesn't mean we never go to court.
But we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.
3) NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS: In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals.
We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly.
But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.
4) We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people.
We want a free classless society.
WE INTEND TO WIN!

Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)*PO Box 1055*Culver City CA 90232*310-495-0299
antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com*www.antiracistaction.com

Hypocrites on the Hill

[column written 6/20/09] (c) '09 Mumia Abu-Jamal

As politicians rush resolutions through Congress supporting the protesters in Tehran, defending the principle of freedom to protest, their hypocrisy is even more blinding than their own myopia. For, it takes only a moment's reflection to recognize that they don't give a tinker's damn about the protesters. This is about using resolutions as a weapon to further mark Iran as the enemy, the dangerous other which "threatens" U.S. hegemony.

As proof of political hypocrisy, one can cock an ear to hear the hiss of silence when protests erupt here in America, and demonstrators get beaten, locked up and prosecuted for practicing their alleged rights under the First Amendment.

Think back to the massive street protests against the police murder of Oscar Grant in Oakland, California. People were beaten, busted and had their cell phone cameras confiscated by the police. Did Congress support these protesters? Well, not yet. State and local politicians, when they said anything, called for calm, an end to protests -- and some dissed the protesters as "animals."

Sound familiar?

I don't speak Farsi, but it's my guess that they don't sound too different in tone from Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei -- in other words, 'the system works -- trust the system!' Why? Because that's what states always say.

Protesters here in the U.S. have had their butts kicked for years -- yes, years -- in spite of so called guarantees in the constitution to free expression and the right to protest. Indeed, we need look no farther than the hallowed halls of Congress itself, specifically Rep. John Lewis, (D.-GA), whose head still sports the scars from the police batons that battered him in Selma, when he protested against American apartheid.

A half a century later, and protesters still get beat downs, from coast to coast, for demonstrating -- and if they don't get beat down physically, they get beaten economically, by lawyers, judges and DA's, who squeeze them -- as they pay for the right to practice the freedom to demonstrate. The U.S. Congress, which just a few generations ago, supported the brutal, savage reign of repression over Iran under the Shah (Mohammad Reza Pahlavi), and also supported his nuclear ambitions, could care less about the Iranian people.

This is politics -- pure and simple -- and about using these protests as pretexts for other, more nefarious goals.

Because of the brutish, bone-headed policies of the Bush Regime, Iran emerged from the carnage of the Iraq war period as the strongest player on the board. That's because the U.S. took down their deadliest enemy, Saddam Hussein. The U.S. wants to reset the wheel, by sparking internal conflict, and thereby weakening the Iranian government. We have been here before -- and it didn't turn out well the last time.

The Power of Truth is Final -- Free Mumia!

URGENT Need for Petition Signatures at: http://www.iacenter.org/mumiapetition/
Audio of most of Mumia's essays are at: http://www.prisonradio.org
http://mumiapodcast.libsyn.com/
Mumia's got a podcast! Mumia Abu-Jamal's Radio Essays - Subscribe at the website or on iTunes and get Mumia's radio commentaries online.
Mumia Abu-Jamal's new book -- JAILHOUSE LAWYERS: PRISONERS DEFENDING PRISONERS V. THE USA, featuring an introduction by Angela Y. Davis -- has been released! It is available from City Lights Books: http://www.citylights.com/book/?GCOI=87286100448090
If you are planning to organize an event or would like to order in bulk, you can also receive a 45% discount on any bulk orders of 20 copies or more. The book retails for $16.95, for orders of 20 copies or more the discounted price would be $9.32 per book, plus shipping and handling. Prepayment would be required and books are nonreturnable. If you or your organization would like to place a bulk order, please contact Stacey Lewis at 415.362.1901 or stacey@citylights.com Let's use the opportunity of the publication of this brilliant, moving, vintage Mumia book to build the momentum for his case, to raise the money we desperately need in these challenging economic times, to get the word out – to produce literature, flyers, posters, videos, DVD's; to send organizers out to help build new chapters and strengthen old ones, TO GET THE PEOPLE OUT IN THE STREETS … all the work that we must do in order to FREE MUMIA as he faces LIFE IN PRISON WITHOUT PAROLE OR EXECUTION! Please make a contribution to help free Mumia. Donations to the grassroots work will go to both INTERNATIONAL CONCERNED FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MUMIA ABU-JAMAL and the FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL COALITION (NYC). WWW.FREEMUMIA.COM
Please mail donations/ checks to:

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(CHECKS FOR BOTH ORGANIZATIONS PAYABLE TO: FMAJC/IFCO)
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
215 476-8812 or 212-330-8029

Send our brotha some LOVE and LIGHT at:
Mumia Abu-Jamal
AM 8335
SCI-Greene
175 Progress Drive
Waynesburg, PA 15370

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Partial Victory in SF8 Case
Drop the Charges on Francisco Torres;
Free Herman, Jalil and all Political Prisoners

by Free the SF8

After 38 years, the government's case against eight former Black Panther Party members and supporters has almost completely unraveled. The eight were arrested January 23, 2007 in California, New York, and Florida on charges related to the 1971 killing of a San Francisco police officer. Similar charges were brought in 1975, but a California judge tossed out the charges, finding that they were based on statements made by three of the men after police in New Orleans tortured them for several days employing electric shock, cattle prods, beatings, sensory deprivation, plastic bags and hot, wet blankets for asphyxiation.

Francisco Torres, Ray Boudreaux, Richard Brown, Harold Taylor and Hank Jones of the SF 8 and supporters Wanda Sabir, Kiilu Nyasha, Soffiyah Elijah and Nadra Foster emerged from the courthouse Monday, July 6, after hearing the prosecution admit there is insufficient evidence to sustain nearly all the charges.

Last week, Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim were sentenced to probation and time served, after Herman agreed to plead to voluntary manslaughter and Jalil to conspiracy to voluntary manslaughter. All charges were then dropped on Richard Brown, Hank Jones, Harold Taylor, and Ray Boudreaux, with the prosecution admitting it had "insufficient evidence" against them. Charges had already been dropped against Richard O'Neal last year.

Francisco Torres of NYC is the last person still with charges; he maintains his innocence and will appear in court on August 10. (See profiles on Who Are the SF 8? on freethesf8.org).

Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim have been in prison in New York for almost 40 years on similar charges based on the US Government's COINTELPRO actions to disrupt and destroy radical organizations, especially the Black Panther Party. Showing the weakness of the prosecution's case, Bell and Muntaqim were given no additional prison time, and will be returned to NY where they will continue to fight for parole.

Two and a half years of mass support for the Brothers, including resolutions from the San Francisco Central Labor Council, the Berkeley City Council, and several San Francisco Supervisors, have almost broken the back of a vindictive prosecution organized by Homeland Security, the FBI, and California Attorney General Jerry Brown. The defense committee has vowed to keep up the pressure until charges are dropped against Francisco Torres and Herman and Jalil are back with their families and community. See also reports in IndyBay Media and the SF Bay Guardian and photos at www.flickr.com/photos/freethesf8.

Statement by Jalil Muntaqim on the S.F. 8 Plea Agreement

First, I would like to thank all my friends and supporters for their tenacious and tireless work in support of the S.F.8, especially the San Francisco 8 Support Committee, Committee in Defense of Human Rights, Asian-Americans Committee for the S.F. 8, Freedom Archives, and many others. I wish to thank the excellent legal team whose unwavering commitment to the task was inspiring. I especially want to thank the lawyers who did the majority of the behind-the-scenes legwork by name: Soffiyah Elijah, Jenny Kang, Julie de Almeida, Heather Hardwick, Rai Sue Sussman, and Lori Flowers. This team of women suffering the testosterone of as many as ten male lead attorneys, plus the eight men accused, truly had their feminist code tested. Naturally, I want to thank the most noted private investigators, Adam Raskin and Nancy Pemberton, whose investigative technique and services were outstanding.

Today we were to start the preliminary hearing but because of our strong legal defense team and growing public support, the California prosecutor offered plea settlements that could not be ignored. The entire group discussed whether I would plead no contest to conspiracy to manslaughter. After some discussion, I reluctantly agreed to take the plea and be sentenced to 3 years probation; 1 year of jail time, credit for time served, concurrent with New York State sentence, dismissing 1st degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Also, because of my plea, four other defendants would have all charges dismissed for insufficient evidence. This was a *no-brainer* especially considering the elder brothers suffered a variety of health issues ranging from high blood pressure, chronic respiratory problems, diabetes, PTSD, and prostate cancer. Although I have my own health issues, in my near 38 years of imprisonment, I believe I am in better shape than all four combined (Ha).

In the last 25 years prior to these charges being lodged, the brothers had been living peaceful and productive lives raising their families, and offering community services. During the period from their release on bail to this date, they had been running themselves ragged across the country telling the story of COINTELPRO destruction of the Black Panther Party, the Legacy of Torture, and building support for the case. While I would have liked to have continued the legal fight to what I believe would have resulted in complete exoneration of all charges, I know the jury system is fickle. I have seen too many innocent men in prison who fought with the conviction of being innocent after a reasonable plea bargain was offered, and they ultimately lost due to prosecutorial misconduct, defense attorney errors, improper jury instructions by a judge, and/or a fickle jury. Unfortunately, their loss results in spending decades in prison fighting for a reversal or waiting to be released on parole, or in the worst cases, death row DNA exonerations. The American judicial system is nowhere near being without flaws, as the overwhelming number of Black men in prison sorely attests. Given these circumstances, my taking this plea is a bitter-sweet win-win.

Finally, I would like to thank with profound appreciation my attorneys Daro Inouye, a 30+ year veteran of the San Francisco Public Defenders Office, whose trial experiences and skills are incomparable; and Mark Goldrosen, a remarkable, selfless trial technician and writer whose understanding of both State and Federal law brought the court (and some of the attorneys) to task.

A luta continua - Jalil

FAX Gerry Brown, demonstrate Aug. 10 to free Cisco Torres
Check out www.thejerichomovement.com for petition to free Jalil and Herman!

Survival Guide For The New Millennium

By the Black Riders Liberation Party (BRLP)

The Black Panther Party became mostly known in the news for confronting and shooting it out with the racist police forces across Amerikka. This was mainly a sensationalized deception of the Panther organization largely put out by the racist media corporations working hand in hand with the United Snakes Government to justify targeting the Black revolutionary groups with massive Military attacks led by the wicked FBI. Although initially Panther leaders pushed forward the idea that the group represented Black armed self-defense to uplift the Black community's dignity and security, the reactionary media strategically and systematically froze and still-framed the Panthers in a gun-toting posture. This was also done to diminish, distort and belittle the Panthers' other programs to help educate and raise the consciousness of the community. These programs were originally referred to as the "serve the people" programs but were later officially called the Survival Programs.

These Survival Programs consisted of many different programs that were designed for the most oppressed Black Masses who shouldered the full-blown wrath of the exploitative capitalist machine and its racist ruling circle. The brilliance, discipline, and commitment of the Panther rank and file membership was expressed in these action-motivated programs. Panthers usually woke up in the wee hours of the morning after a tremendously stressful night of bracing for unjust police raids on their homes to operate these survival programs.

One of the first programs was the Black Panthers openly displaying legal guns while patrolling in the racist Oakland police to defend the Black community from harassment and vicious brutality. The Breakfast for Children program fed thousands of children across Amerikka before school, to help them focus on learning rather than hunger in class. This was one the most successful survival programs.

There waere weekly Political Education classes that helped educate adults to the political crisis of oppression. The Busing to Prison programs transported families to jails and prisons to visit their kin, to elevate family support for imprisoned Black people so they would return from prison ready to help their community instead of harm it. Health Clinics were set up to provide the people with basic medical care and sometimes tested for Sickle Cell Anemia. There were programs to escort elders back and forth to stores, and ambulance service, food and shoe giveaways, rehabilitation drug counseling and many, many more. All of these survival programs were provided to the poor black community for absolutely free. Yes, these survival programs were raising the standards of living in the community free of any charge!

During the maximum development of these survival programs, the racist transvestite FBI Director J. Edger Hoover directed the government's Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) to use illegal tactics to attack the Panthers with white supremacist ruthlessness. He publicly declared that the Panthers were the greatest threat to the internal security of Amerikka! The original Panthers were falsely imprisoned, murdered, forced into exile, drugged with cocaine, mentally and physically tortured, divided and ultimately conquered!

The Black Riders represents the resurrected New Generation Black Panthers and we arose from totally different oppressive conditions than our original Panther comrades. The reactionary shift forced on the community towards Black on Black violent crime took center stage in the corrupt U.S government's skillful new maneuver to carry out the genocide of Black people without openly appearing to be involved. This high tech deceptive strategy and disguised intent has fooled many people to believe that racism doesn't exist anymore in this country. We have been manipulated, misled, and scientifically brainwashed to think that we are each other's worst enemy and the fascist white system is our benevolent savior from total Black on Black self-destruction.

We ultimately have been convinced that it is better to call on the racist system to save us from each other instead of solving the problems ourselves. The gigantic turn for the worse has allowed the evil enemy to openly act as our 'friend' and don a near-perfect disguise behind our back against us. This distorted camouflage is perpetually reinforced by unaware mis-educated youth armed to the teeth with fully automatic weapons and tons of black self-hatred in their hearts, carefully smuggled into the ghetto by every element of the racist Amerikkan government and its ruling class. There are no poor ghetto dwellers with the capability to get large cargo planes to fly to Russia to get AK-47's or to Israel to get Uzi's to Amerikka.

This Black on Black violence has made it increasingly dangerous for anyone to go into the community to raise consciousness and educate people because of this government created crisis. This hostile situation combined with the racist system use of extreme poverty caused unemployment, chemical (crack) warfare, and biological (AIDS)warfare are nothing but deliberate preemptive attacks to prevent another mass Black Movement from gaining momentum. Other new issues like a new token Black Middle Class rising in the police force, political office, corporate managerial heads, and military service, have helped the wicked enemy to solidify the myth that America is no longer in the business of Black extermination. When in fact, the biggest growth industry business in America is locking up and imprisoning Black people for the government-created Black on Black crime in the community. Even Nazi Germany's Adolph Hitler failed to mastermind a final solution scheme to make billions of dollars by wiping a whole people off the face of the planet earth.

This evil wolf in sheep's clothing extermination plan has pushed the Black Riders to upgrade our ancestors' old Panther Survival Programs to cope with the emergency of the rapidly deteriorating community and develop modern counter measure Survival Programs. We are in a desperate crisis a hundred times worse than when we were first kidnapped as a people and drug here on slave ships at gunpoint from Africa. During chattel slavery there was at least a distinct line separating the oppressor from the oppressed. Today we have been purposely mixed up and confused by the enemy who made the victim look like the criminal and the criminal look like the victim. This mass illusion has been sending us one by one on a full speed conveyor belt into a doomsday pit. Our Survival Programs have had to come to terms with the situation where Brainwashed Black brains were using their Black hands to fling Black bodies into racist white-dug mass graves and government built gas chambers!

The Watch a Pig program was created to patrol the police with numerous different types of weapons to defend the community from a new paramilitary police terrorism and to direct the attention of the youth towards the real racist enemy. Since the police were also the main force used by the white power structure to break up and smash any organized cease-fire or gang truce from manifesting. We set this Survival Program on our high priority list for over 13 years. It is our most successful program to awaken the youth out of their apolitical slumber and shock them into an electrified political frenzy in Los Angeles, the heart of all gang lands. We have helped to develop the B.O.S.S. gang truce football games to build tolerance in the youth to settle disputes in a peaceful sports-like manner. Our comrade Duade Sherills developed that program and was also one of the many founders of the gigantic Watts gang truce. Many "hoods" have traveled from all over Southern California to play in the peace treaty games.

The Safe Passage Program provides Black Rider escorts to children on their way to school to protect children from getting trapped in the middle of gang shootings. We have developed skillfully trained Black Rider warriors to post up on dangerous high risk gang activity street corners to give political education classes to apathetic youth and provide immediate conflict resolution to stop Black on Black violence on the spot. The Cultural Mountain Boot Camp Program educates the youth, with an African rites-of-passage program. It is designed to help cultivate Black Self-esteem and Self-respect, to destroy self-hatred that breeds Black on Black criminal attacks. This program also creates discipline through Black martial arts self-defense training. It guides the youth into a true understanding of African Manhood and Womanhood deep in the mountains. The Kourt Watch program provides the community with Black Rider escorts and transportation back and forth to court. It is done to bridge the gap between the incarcerated Black people and their family support. We help the family find a lawyer or at least get legal counseling from a respected community lawyer. We have created the Squeeze the Slumlord Project, free food giveaways, provided shelter to the homeless, created clothing giveaways, counseled drug addicts, and much more, all free to the community.

In racist retaliation, the U.S government and its ruling circle has openly labeled us the number one paramilitary problem "gang" in Amerikka in many police reports. Homeland Security agency and its vicious Patriot Act guidelines were ordered to move its main operation from the New York "911" World Trade Center it was created for and redirect its resources, equipment, and secret agent forces to attack our Los Angeles Black freedom operations. Since then we have been raided by the FBI, S.W.A.T. teams, armored vehicles, bomb squad, and even with military tanks in broad daylight! We have stopped more gang-army violence with our Survival Programs than the racist U.S government's mass incarceration 'solution,' but have been rewarded with updated Gestapo violence by the fake friends and false saviors of the Black community. This is because the entire racist economy is dependent upon making its billion dollar profits from Black blood, sweat and tears of the community. It feeds more on the communities' Black blood than it needs Iraqi Oil! If gang banging were to continue it would guarantee job security to those employed in the criminal injustice system, the prison business, and their hired gunslingers who love to aim at Black Heads since most of the American factories have moved overseas to exploit the Third World!

The Survival Programs are a very important feature in our struggle for liberation but we strongly disagree with our original Panther elder comrades that these programs represent "Survival-pending Revolution." This ancient incorrect idea assumes that the Survival Programs should be over-emphasized while downplaying the armed revolution, as if it is possible to create conditions of survival under Capitalism and fascism while being daily chocked out and smashed into a Black group of community-wide corpses! We believe only seizure of State power, the taking of the means of production, and the total transformation to African Inter-communalism by the peoples' armed struggle is the true way to guarantee that the people survive instead of being exterminated. Thereby making the correct distinction that the Survival Programs are a tactic to a revolutionary strategy as opposed to the survival programs being the strategy for revolution. This clearly represents the difference between passive reformism and aggressive revolution!

All Power to the People who don't fear freedom.

The Black Riders are the sharp pointed spearhead for the real second Black Revolution that will win!

Contact the Black Riders Liberation Party:
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(323) 901-3834

Black Riders Sisters
Educate to Liberate!

EDITOR'S ENDORSEMENTS IN THE KPFK-PACIFICA LSB ELECTIONS

The war of words in the Local Station Board (LSB) elections for KPFK and other Pacifica radio stations is heating up. As in any election, decisive, exclusionary choices must be made, no matter how much we hate the in-fighting, name-calling, and finger-pointing that passes for debate when the left forms its circular firing squad.
And in this election, the choice is clear. One side, the side of current KPFK LSB member and acting Executive Director of Pacifica Grace Aaron, of Ian Masters and other staffers and hosts, is committed to purges, bannings and to 'rule or ruin' Pacifica as an adjunct of the Democratic Party under the mantle of 'fiscal responsibility'. The other side, supporting a platform of a few key principles including loyalty to the Pacifica mission, has backed a list of grassroots activists from various communities around the KPFK listening area who have signed on to the following points of unity:

* Implementing the core values of the Pacifica Mission: voices by and for people not commonly heard in the mainstream media
* Greater autonomy and local decision-making for our radio station
* Fiscal transparency and responsibility: people, not corporate underwriters, supporting people's radio
* Local, diverse, multilingual, and young voices from and for our communities
* Spanish language programming to bring progressive messages to Spanish language communities
* Effective, participatory governance accountable to listener-sponsors and responsive to the diverse needs and interests of the So. California listening community

I have endorsed these principles. I have worked -- both in the context of KPFK and in the broader social and political movements of southern California -- with a number of the candidates who have endorsed those principles as the basis of their commitment of accountability to the listeners. At www.takebackkpfk.org, you can see the list with the "official" voting order. I am making personal endorsements here, and giving my personal knowledge and experience of many of these candidates, because I think they will forestall the effort to neuter or destroy Pacifica as a voice of dissent and community activism against the Empire even headed by a Democrat.

Khallid Al-Alim, a current member of the LSB despite efforts to keep him off, is a parent activist in the Coalition for Educational Justice. Khallid's name is printed on the ballot -- but you must vote for him as a write-in, because his nominating petition was ruled invalid. I urge you to vote for Khallid (as a write-in on the bottom of your ballot) and ranked number one to insure him the strongest possibility of getting elected, since some people may waste a vote by marking the line by his name.

Lawrence Reyes of the Puerto Rican Alliance, a listener-member of many LSB committees, an ally in the Jericho Amnesty Coalition to Free All Political Prisoners, was singled out for vituperation by Ian Masters, probably because Lawrence has been one of the most outspoken and principled internationalist opponents of imperialism, war and colonialism. He is a parent, a social worker and union member, a cultural activist to educate the community about the Puerto Rican people's struggle.

Chuck Anderson is stalwart in the struggle for peace, civil liberties and justice. He retains a connection to younger people coming in to such struggles, and to his Mexican roots. Based in Orange County, he is tireless in outreach and organizing, to connect with the Palestinian and other Arab and Muslim communities.

John Parker is a leader of the International Action Center, and has been involved for many years in struggles for social and economic justice, against racism and US wars of occupation and aggression, in the effort to free Mumia Abu-Jamal and other political prisoners, and in fighting for the interests of working people.

Ruby Medrano has a long history of activism and grassroots community work, particularly in East Los Angeles, going back to work with the United Farm Workers. She has many years experience with the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. An activist in the Democratic Party, she is willing to work in coalition with radicals.

Cuco (Refugio Ceballos) is a danzante with the Danza Azteca Cuautemoc, multi-generational cultural/political/spiritual workers whose commitment to resistance, internationalism, and healing inspires and amazes marchers and on-lookers alike at protests around the southland. Cuco is on the community board of Tia Chucha's.

Tej Grewall is an intellectually-curious young woman of Indian descent who does street level radio journalism as a volunteer, working with the "People Without Borders" collective at KPFK and also serving as a listener-member of the LSB's Outreach Committee helping build the audience among younger listeners like herself.

Luis Garcia is a former member of the Local Advisory Board. He's an advocate for Spanish-language community-based programming, a former probation officer and a "pragmatic prison abolitionist" and member of Families to Amend California's Three Strikes (FACTS) and of CURB, Californians United for a Responsible Budget.

Ian Johnston (c) is a current member of the LSB and participant in LSB and PNB committees who has long roots in the Venice community and has been an activist against CIA criminality and the use of 9-11 to carry out war and repression. He is a former board operator and producer of "Another World View is Possible."

Three other candidates have endorsed the same principles: Fred Klunder, Dutch Merrick, and Sandi Stiassni, but I have no first-hand knowledge or shared political practice with them aside from hearing them speak on-air or in person. I join in endorsing them based on their commitment because this election is so vital to keeping a spark of resistance alive at Pacifica against the forces of corporate liberalism, unprincipled compromise with the Empire, and unexamined privilege.

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TURNING THE TIDE

No Nazis! No KKK! No Fascist USA!

To Stop Global War and Global Warming – Eradicate the Empire!

Here Comes the New Boss – Same as the Old Boss!

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PART's Perspective:
White nationalism, Nazism on the rise in southern California and across the US:
Anti-Racist Action Needed Now More Than Ever!

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror***

In the months since the election of Barack Obama, white nationalist and neo-nazi organizing and violence have increased steadily around the LA basin and across the United States. The most recent open Nazi activity locally was an anti-immigrant action by the National Socialist Movement (NSM) in Riverside CA. Eight boneheads in nazi regalia with the NSM's modified US flag, complete with a swastika, held a brief anti-immigrant demonstration near a Home Depot, while hundreds of counter protesters drowned out their speakers, obscured them from public view, and tore down several nazi flags, burning them up. The riot-geared cops protecting the nazis advised them to leave, and they did so quickly, with Brown Berets and anti-fa's marching them back to their car and proclaiming victory. Dozens of other opponents of the nazis, including many day laborers, stood across the street in a safety zone, while about 4 miles away downtown, there was another anti-racist, anti-nazi rally with local religious and labor leaders to proclaim solidarity against the nazis.

But one or two counter-demonstrations will not solve this problem. The NSM has announced its intention to return publicly in October, and they have set up a PO Box and opened an office in the area. In addition, such open nazi activity is the tip of the iceberg of more deeply rooted and mainstream white nationalism, institutionalized white supremacy, and internalized racism. These poisonous toadstools spring up because of something rotten in the soil – settler colonialism. Nazis like the NSM are only one easily identifiable manifestation of the problem. But white nationalism and racism are manifest in many sectors of US society, not only in the explicitly fascist right, but within the left and progressive elements as well. If the problem were merely a few nazi nutcases, it would have been solved long ago. We cannot afford to dismiss or ignore the nazis – history has shown us that opposition must be public, unyielding and fierce. Otherwise, nazis have the capability to infect scenes, to silence or intimidate opposition, and to do serious violence and harm to people's rights, to people of color, labor, LGBTQ people, and to the left. We need to speak to them in language they will understand, in order to expose them as the cowardly bullies they are.

But we need to do more than that. We need to expose their support systems and sympathizers among the elite, the corporate power structure and the state. We need to undermine and counter-organize their base of potential support among middle and working class "white" people. And we need to be self-critical of the debilitating impact of racism, white nationalism and other forms of identification with the oppressor within our own ranks. Let's look at these different necessities in succession, beginning with dealing with the self-identified nazis themselves.

NO HEART! NO BRAINS! NO GUTS! NO NAZIS!

Unlike Dorothy's comrades in "The Wizard of Oz," the nazis really do suffer from a lack of love, intelligence and courage. The Scarecrow, who was quite clever and strategic, didn't trust his native wit. The Tin Man, so sentimental and sympathetic that his own tears would rust him, didn't trust his own feelings. And the Lion, who soldiered on in the face of fear, didn't understand that was exactly the nature of true courage. They needed a humbug to certify what they already possessed. But that's not how it is with the nazis.

While parading around as proponents of "white pride," they are actually full of self-loathing. It is their hatred of themselves that spills over into hatred of the "other." Incapable of loving themselves, they create a persona of heartlessness, as paragons of hatred for Blacks, Mexicans, Native people, Asians, Jews, queers and "race-mixers" or "race-traitors." They imagine that a lack of compassion or fellow feeling is a strength, that it makes them hard, or tough. Actually, their inability to empathize makes them hollow, and renders their unity with each other brittle, especially because it is a false front papering over their emptiness and lack of self-esteem.

Similarly, the nazis' hatred and prejudice corrodes their intelligence. Having decided *a priori* that they are the master race, superior to all others, they are incapable of facing reality objectively or of accepting facts that do not correspond with their ideology. Preconceived notions blind them to the truth. They follow their leaders because they can't think independently or critically, let alone self-critically. They are not able to make a concrete analysis of concrete conditions. Nazis' particular hatred of Jews stems from their inability to recognize the independent intelligence and cultural creativity of the supposedly "inferior races" they despise. Therefore they develop elaborate conspiratorial fantasies that someone else is doing the thinking for African or indigenous people.

Finally, like the bullies they are, nazis are really cowards. Faced with superior or equal, or even stern and unrelenting resistance from someone they expected to be a pushover, nazis will melt away, as they did in Riverside, scurrying back to their dens and hideouts, crawling back under the rocks. So the chant "No heart! No brains! No guts! No Nazis!" that ARA-LA raised at Riverside, is not just trash talk. It is a strategic formulation of the weaknesses of our enemy, a guide to how we can beat them in a direct confrontation. Act out of love for humanity – activated as solidarity – with intelligence, but unafraid to stand up to their bullying and to call their bluff.

COPS AND THE KLAN WORK HAND IN HAND!

But as we said, direct confrontation is not the sum total of dealing with the nazi problem. Whenever the nazis show their face in public organizing, they do so because they know the armed bodies of the state will have their backs. We need to make the agencies of state repression, which enforce some of the same relations of colonial exploitation and oppression as the explicit racists, pay a political price. We can do so by exposing those affinities, and using them to strip away the illusion of fairness that state agencies enjoy with some who do not usually experience their repressive force directly. The same holds for the corporate media, economic interests and political figures that benefit from and promote white nationalism and racist repression.

Here in southern California, the racism and colonialism of the criminal injustice system (the cops, courts, prosecutors and jailers) supported by the political elite of both major parties, has become increasingly evident. The same is true for the public education system, whose answer to its failure to educate Black and indigenous youth of color, is to give away the store through privatization and charters. Perhaps they are thinking of a division of labor in which the public schools will serve as feeders for the prisons and the military, while the private schools will hook up with the private prisons and the mercenaries! In any event, we need to do anti-racist and anti-fascist work with the clear understanding that police forces acting like a domestic occupying army or internal border patrol, and genocidal educational systems that write kids off as cannon fodder, are as racist as any bonehead or anti-immigrant thug.

Furthermore, we need to keep in mind a political calculus of how opposing nazis in ways that weaken their ability to act as props of the system of colonial capitalism and simultaneously build up our own fighting capacity, can be used to de-legitimize and de-stabilize the whole edifice of exploitation and oppression they help to enforce. Reciprocally, exposing racist brutality by law enforcement agencies like the LAPD, sheriff's deputies, prison guards and LAUSD police can limit their capacity to act as protectors of open and organized white supremacists.

BONEHEADS AND POINTY HOODS ARE THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

Too many of the groups and individuals who might come out against the nazis are content to condemn them as "extremists," and picture them as threat to polite society and the status quo in a way that actually enhances the nazis' reputation and street cred with the people they want to organize. This allows the nazis to portray themselves as some kind of revolutionaries. Some condemn the nazis yet deny that racism is a problem within the left, or that colonialism is a problem inside the US itself. We need to unite all those who can be united, without compromising our principles. We need to do anti-racist and anti-fascist work in a way that enhances and advances a social revolutionary process of liberation.

This involves a couple of key aspects – solidarity with the anti-colonial struggles of oppressed people, and a self-critical approach to the issues of privilege and identification with the oppressor that undercut the revolutionary potential of anti-racists. In this way, we can develop a credible, appealing revolutionary alternative to the hypocrisy and oppressiveness of the system and the brutality and hatred of the nazis, so that we can make inroads into the base of people the nazis are trying to organize with pseudo-revolutionary rhetoric.

We can begin to develop anti-nazi work as a component of a strategy to strengthen the popular forces so that we can win struggles for liberation and de-colonization. Evidence that we are on a successful, winning path will break the logjam of lethargy and apathy that has been blocking forward progress since the defeats of the '60s and '70s, and the substitution of non-profit careerism for autonomous movement-building in communities of resistance.

Only by learning from our defeats and failures of the past – as well as from revolutionary advances gained during past upsurges – will we be able overcome our weaknesses and build trustworthy solidarity. It is we in the people's movements who are like Dorothy and her friends, not knowing or trusting our own strengths, our capacity to create and to solve problems no matter how daunting, our ability to build liberating alliances with others enslaved by the system. We can only learn to identify and trust our own strengths by testing, probing and acknowledging our weaknesses, and using our strengths to overcome them.

TAKING THE OFFENSIVE THIS FALL

One of the problems with anti-racism and anti-fascism is that it is too often reactive, fighting at moments or venues chosen by the enemy. Without abandoning a commitment to counteract nazis and deny them the streets, we need to be pro-active, and on the offensive. This fall, ARA is having its international gathering in Pittsburgh on the heels of the G20 protests that were met with state brutality. This is an important opportunity to strategize about how to take the initiative as organizers in a dynamic way. ARA-LA is inviting interested anti-fascists throughout southern California to strategize and organize with us locally as well.

On Saturday October 24, Michael Novick of ARA-LA/PART will be speaking at a liberation festival at the Southern California Library in L.A. on the theme of "from the WUO to ARA – Lessons from four decades of anti-racist struggle." Earlier that same day, we will be back on the streets against the nazis, the Minutemen and other white nationalists, as the National Socialist Movement has announced plans to return to Riverside to hold a racist anti-immigrant rally on Oct. 24.

We are also hoping to set up pro-active events in the Inland Empire (Riverside/San Bernardino) area, Orange County, Ventura County, and the San Fernando Valley as well to develop anti-fascist and anti-colonial education, struggle for unity, and build a culture of resistance.

On December 10, International Human Rights Day, we are planning a mobilization against all wars of occupation and against colonialism and repression inside the US itself.

If you are interested in helping build those activities and that campaign, please get in touch right away!

You can reach us at 310-495-0299, by email at antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com, or by writing to us at:

ARA-LA/PART, PO Box 1055,
Culver City CA 90232.

We appreciate your feedback, involvement and ideas!

Excerpts from:

EXPOSING "LITTLE GUANTANAMO:" Inside the CMU

by Daniel McGowan #63794-053, USP Marion-CMU, PO Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959

For the full text of *Exposing "Little Guantanamo:" Inside the CMU* published by the New York City Branch of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation and Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan, write to Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan, friendsofdanielmcg@yahoo.com supportdaniel.org; NYC-ABCF, PO Box 110034 Bklyn, NY 11211; nycabc@riseup.net

As of May 2009, I have been at USP Marion's "Communication Management Unit," or CMU, for roughly nine months, and now is a good time to address the misconceptions (and the silence) regarding this unit. I…hope this article will partially fill the void of information that exists concerning the CMU, will help dispel rumors, and will inspire you to support those of us on the inside fighting the existence of these isolation units in the courts and in the realm of public opinion. It's best to start from the beginning or at least where my story and the CMU meet.
My transfer here is no different from that of many of the men here, who were living at Federal Correctional Institutions (normal prisons) prior to the genesis of the CMUs. On May 12, 2008, on my way back from lunch, I was told to report to Receiving and Discharge. I was given two boxes and a ½-hour to pack my meager possessions. After complying I was placed in the SHU (secure housing unit or "hole") and put on a bus the next day. There was no hearing and no information to me or to my attorneys. Only after a day was I told I was on my way to the Marion, IL CMU.

Let me back up and offer a brief history of the Communication Management Units. The CMU I reside in, at USP Marion, received its first prisoner in May 2008 and when I arrived, it held about 17 men, the majority of whom were Muslim. In April 2009, we received seven new people, all of whom were from the CMU at FCI Terre Haute. The unit is overwhelmingly Muslim with 18 men identifying as such. Most but not all have so-called terrorism cases. (Other CMUs have prison disciplinary violations or allegations related to communication and the misuse of telephones etc.) BOP Director Harley Lappin, in a July 2008 hearing, said: "A lot of serious offenders, terrorists, were housed at ADX Florence. So, we are ramping up two communications management units that are less restrictive but will ensure all mail and phone calls are monitored daily." According to the BOP, "The CMU is established to house inmates who, due to their current offense, conduct or other verified information, require increased monitoring of communication, in order to protect the safety, security, and orderly operations of Bureau facilities and protect the public...The CMU is a self-contained general population housing unit."

There are alternate views including that CMUs are Muslim units, a political prisoner unit, and a punishment unit. The CMUs have an extremely high Muslim population. An overrepresentation of any demographic in a prison raises constitutional as well as safety issues. Nowhere else in the BOP will you find a group in such extreme disproportion. To counter these claims, the BOP brought in a small number of non-Muslims. Does the inclusion of six non-Muslims really negate the claim of segregation? What are the criteria for determining who comes to the CMU? The BOP claims there are 211 international terrorists and 1000 domestic terrorists in their system. Yet, the CMUs have no more than 60 men at present. Where are the rest of these people? How does the BOP determine which of those 1200 are sent to a CMU?

Many here are considered political prisoners in their movements and have been engaged in social justice, religious organizations and humanitarian efforts. So another conception is that it's designed to isolate us from our movements and as a deterrent for others from those movements. The intended effect of long-term housing of this kind is a dislocation and alienation, with your mail, email, phones, and visits monitored and no human touch allowed. There is evidence of the BOP utilizing political prisons. The Lexington High Security Unit (HSU) was one such. Housing a number of female political prisoners, the HSU functioned as an isolation unit, underground, bathed in light, and limited interaction. Dr. Richard Korn, speaking for the ACLU, said the unit's goal was: "...to reduce prisoners to a state of submission essential for their ideological conversion." After an arduous campaign by human rights advocates, the BOP capitulated, stating it would close its facility (when it did not, it was sued). The judge ruled the plaintiffs were illegally designated based on their past political affiliations and beliefs. The unit was closed and the women were transferred (and eventually released). The CMUs …seem to have some of the same goals as well as methods. Knowing they're dealing with people committed to ideals and movements, they placed us here to weaken connections and harm relationships. CMU puts a strain on family relationships, especially marriage. It was certainly considered by the architects that preventing visits that allow touch would have a disastrous impact.

Finally, the CMU can be viewed as a punitive unit for those who continue to express political beliefs anathema to the BOP or the government. I'm not aware of the BOP criteria for sending people here (due to their refusal to release information), but it's curious who's here. Out of roughly 18 codefendants in my case, I'm the only one at a CMU (the rest are at low and medium security prisons). The same for a member of the SHAC7, Andrew Stepanian, only one of 6 defendants in his case who was sent here for the last 6 months of his sentence. Some men here have codefendants at the Terre Haute CMU while others have codefendants at normal prisons. Despite numerous *Freedom of Information* requests, BOP refuses to grant documents that specify the rules governing transfer to the CMU. Remember, hardly any of the men here have received any disciplinary violations and some have been in general population over 15 years! How can someone be OK in general population for that long and then one day be seen as a communication threat?

DUE PROCESS

More appropriately, a lack thereof. Due process is: "...the conduct of legal proceedings according to established principles for the protection of private rights, including notice and the right to hearing before a tribunal with the power to decide the case." I was moved from FCI Sandstone, against my will and at a moment's notice, with no hearing and no chance to contest my transfer. Since I got here, I haven't had a hearing to contest the claims made in the "Notice to Inmate of Transfer to CMU," some of which were woefully inaccurate. Instead, I was told to utilize the administrative remedy process (which I have done to no avail) and request a transfer after 18 months of "clean conduct." I'm 10 months from the point at which I can request a transfer. Considering the fact that all my remedies have been denied, I am not hopeful about this.

CMU AS SECRET

In addition to the due process and transfer issues, there is the secretive and illegal way the CMU was created. The CMU was established roughly halfway through the second term of George W. Bush and his AG Alberto Gonzales. In April 2006, the BOP proposed a "Limited Communication for Terrorist Inmates" policy, which suggested new restrictions for "terrorists" and "terrorism related inmates" such as: 1) One 6-page letter per week. 2) One 15-minute phone call a month. 3) One 1-hour visit a month. A coalition of civil rights organizations signed a letter of protest criticizing the proposed rules and raising numerous Constitutional, practical and ethical objections. The outcry appears to have caused the BOP to reconsider it, but just 6 months later, they opened the CMU at FCI Terre Haute quietly. … The unit is functionally an open secret. The BOP circumvented the public comment process, seeking to get around this by describing the CMU as a "self-contained general population unit," implying the unit is no different than a normal unit at an FCI. There is no mention of the CMU on the BOP's website (ww.bop. gov) or USP Marion's subpage on the same site. Letters are stamped "USP Marion," not CMU, and the unit is called "I Unit." Media queries are met with silence or vague information. Requests by the media to interview me by coming to Marion have been denied as "detrimental to the safety, security and good order of the institution." Because of the refusal of the BOP to hand over relevant documents, it's impossible to determine the specific reasons one is sent here, and thus, how to contest it.

COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT:
The promotion of isolation and alienation

The most painful aspect of this unit to me is how the CMU restricts my contact with the world beyond these walls. Contact with family and friends is our link to the world. Prison authorities are aware that those with strong family ties and good communication with loved ones are well behaved and have lower rates of recidivism. The BOP recognizes this by claiming they try to situate us within 500 miles of our homes. Mostly, this is a cruel farce I have not been within 1000 miles of my family in 2 years. The most Orwellian aspects of the CMU are how they 'manage' our communications. At my previous prison, I was able to use the phones for 300 minutes a month, days, nights, weekends and holidays. Here, we receive one 15-minute call a week, only from 8am-2:30pm, never on weekends or holidays and must be scheduled 1-1/2 weeks in advance. (We can choose a back-up number to call but if neither picks up, we don't get a call at all). The call is live-monitored and recorded. At FCI Sandstone, I received up to 8 visiting days a month (56 hours), contact visits in which I could embrace my wife and share vending machine food with my visitors. I got about 12 of them in eight months and it aided in my adjustment to prison. The CMU restricts our visits to one four-hour non-contact visit a month. One short visit through two inches of plate glass with cameras overhead and visitors stuffed in a 4-1/2X3-1/2 stuffy booth. Visits can only take place on weekdays from 8am-2pm no Christmas or Thanksgiving visits and no physical contact. Consider what it would be like to have no contact with your loved ones. What if you couldn't hug or kiss your lover, partner, wife, or husband? I feel riddled with guilt when I ask friends to spend $500 to fly across the country, drive three hours here (and repeat back) for a 4-hour non-contact visit. I'm lucky having people who'll do this. Many here can't afford it or don't want to subject their children to it.

Mail: We can only send mail once a day and can't visit the mailroom to send packages. We rely on one staff person to do so; sending a box home is a laborious procedure. We must leave our envelopes unsealed so staff can read, copy, scan and send to whatever other agency studies our correspondence. A letter to NY takes 7-9 days. Letters sent abroad, especially not in English, take a month or more. Rules governing legal mail state that it should be opened only in the presence of inmates. Yet staff has opened my legal mail that said "Law Offices of Jane Doe" claiming that it should have said, "Jane Doe, Attorney at Law"! The staff looks for any reason to disqualify our legal mail protection and gather intelligence. In doing so, they violate attorney-client confidentiality.

Media Contact: Though requests have been made to interview people in the CMU, none have been granted. This violates of the spirit of the BOP's own media policy. The Bureau seeks to control and suppress information on the CMU from making it to a mass audience.
The CMUs are not designed for long-term habitation, and living conditions are poor and essentially punitive. The codified rationale for all prisoners being transferred here are "contact with persons in community require heightened control and reviews." Should an increase in monitoring communication mean a decrease in privileges? If the goal is to manage our contact with the outside world, shouldn't the BOP hire enough staff so that we can maintain the same rights and privileges as other prisoners (since the party line is that we are not here for punishment)? The reality is the conditions, segregation, and lack of due process are punishment whether the BOP admits it or not.

Where to from here? Will Obama view the CMU, like Guantanamo Bay, as a horrible legacy of his predecessor and close it? Many people are hopeful for an outcome like that. Or will he marry the policy of Bush and condone a secret illegal set of political units for Muslims and activists? What of the men here? Will he transfer us back to normal prisons and review the outrageous prosecutions of many of the CMU detainees? If it can be done with (former) Senator Ted Steven's case, it can be done here. While lawsuits have been filed in both Illinois and Indiana federal courts, what is needed urgently is for these units to be dragged out into the open. I am asking for your help and advocacy in dealing with this injustice and the mindset that allows a CMU to exist. I hope I gave you a clearer idea of what's going on here. Thank you for all your support and love your letters are a bright candle in a sea of darkness.

In struggle, with love, Daniel

DEMAND CHANGE!

You can contact your elected officials and demand they shut the CMU down: President Barack Obama, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20500. Attorney General Eric Holder, US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20530. Also, www.senate.gov and www.house.gov (type in your address to get your rep's contact)

Daniel McGowan is an environmental and social justice activist from New York City, now a political prisoner held in the Marion Communication Management Unit (CMU). He is serving a seven-year sentence in federal prison for his role in two arsons claimed by the Earth Liberation Front in Oregon, 2001. The judge applied a terrorist enhancement to his sentence, because of the political nature of his case, despite the fact that nobody was harmed as a result of his actions. A proud New Yorker, Daniel has been active in everything from rainforest preservation to indigenous rights to political-prisoner support to military counter-recruitment. At the time of his arrest, December 7th 2005, Daniel was working at WomensLaw.org, an organization that assists survivors of domestic violence, and was also pursuing a degree in acupuncture. Daniel is due to be released from prison on June 5th, 2013.

DANIEL'S NON-COOPERATING CO-DEFENDANTS:

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Major Social Upheaval Taking Place in Puerto Rico

by
"El Tipo Comun" (The Common Guy, Roberto Garcia), from primerahora.com, sept 30, 2009

Puerto Rico is witnessing the kind of social, economic, and political upheaval not witnessed in decades. This week, the government -- the largest employer on the island -- laid off close to 17,000 workers, in its 2nd phase of downsizing that had been initiated in May of this year, with the layoffs of around 5,000 workers. Over 20,000 government employees have lost their jobs in a matter of months. Considering the fact that Puerto Rico's official unemployment rate is around 16%, the island obviously continues to confront a serious economic crisis. Government officials contend that they inherited a bankrupt government along with a huge debt load. They are scrambling to prevent their credit rating to be classified in the lowest of categories: junk. To do so, they passed a law declaring a fiscal emergency, and part of the fiscal restructuring taking place is downsizing the government work force. Government Development Bank President Carlos Garcia, who heads the administration's Fiscal Stabilization & Reconstruction Board, said already implemented belt-tightening measures, including spending cuts and payroll reductions through attrition, voluntary buyouts and a first round of layoffs in late May were "not enough." Among the agencies slated to lose the most employees are the Education, Police, Transportation & Public Works, Corrections and Justice departments and the Family & Children Administration. Teachers and police officers were exempt from firing. Most dismissals would be staggered over 30-90 days, with the largest number taking effect on Nov. 6.

Labor unions, public workers and college students have continued to stage demonstrations against the Fortunato administration. The Electric Industry Workers Union (UTIER in Spanish acronym) headed a march from the Capitol to La Fortaleza as part of a 12-hour work stoppage that started at 6 a.m. UTIER is the largest union at the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, a public corporation that was shielded from the government layoffs carried out under Law 7. It was the second time in a week that UTIER members have walked off the job.

Meanwhile, cases of police abuse are being denounced at an increasing rate across the island, with a recent incident involving university students who were targeted and attacked with batons and indiscriminate use of tear gas by the police. Squatter communities (also known as developers of rescued lands) have recently been targeted by the conservative administration; these interventions have also been characterized by the use of force against women and children. Part of the fiscal emergency response has been to declare the end of gains won by collective bargaining agreements, drawing a sharp outcry from the union sector. Opposition political parties called for a larger burden to be held by the rich and by large corporations, only to be rebuked by the administration, which went ahead with increases in the cost of basic services and with layoffs which mostly affect the ever-shrinking middle class. The conservative administration also censured several books by renowned authors in the island's schools, a deed met with fierce opposition.

The main political parties continue to squabble publicly about future political roles and future candidates for office, and opposition parties either have no presence or struggle against marginalization by news media. Independence advocates in September commemorated their most sacred anniversaries in remembrance of a historical insurrection in 1868 and of the 2005 FBI murder of revolutionary leader Filiberto Ojeda Rios, with calls of unity, revolution, and struggle with those affected. And to top it off, the governor signed an executive order authorizing the use of the National Guard to quell public disturbances and deal with national emergencies.

Workers, professors and students at the University of Puerto Rico marched on the UPR Board of Trustees to demand that the public university system also be exempt from Law 7, the package of belt-tightening measures to close a $3.2 billion deficit and pare public spending by $2 billion annually. Students shut the gates to UPR-Rio Piedras, the third time in about a month that the flagship campus has been shut by protesting students. Meanwhile, a group of students at the School of Plastic Arts blocked access to the Old San Juan campus while demanding that Chancellor Marimar Benitez refuse to sign dismissal letters for government workers laid off there.
The protest started as a 24-hour strike but was extended indefinitely, according to student spokeswoman Elizabeth Barreto, who said 18 of the school's 36 staffers were dismissed, all from administrative posts. Myrna Casas, director of the Ferre Center for the Performing Arts in Santurce, had refused to sign dismissal letters and was ousted.

In another incident, four members of the Puerto Rican Workers Syndicate (SPT by its Spanish initials) blocked vehicle access to the governor's mansion along Fortaleza Street in Old San Juan. They were accompanied by about a dozen other union members. The union protest camp set up outside of La Fortaleza was forcefully dismantled by agents from the Police Department's Riot Squad. The AP reported that police beat Workers Federation President Jose Rodriguez Baez and other union leaders with batons. Police Superintendent Jose Figueroa Sancha called for calm. "What is important is that we have to cool things down a bit. We are at a tense moment in Puerto Rico. Journalists, the police, the union leaders, we all have to cool down," Figueroa Sancha said in a radio interview. The police chief, however, stressed that the Police Department would do its job. "If they don't understand dialogue, well then we have to protect the governor," Figueroa Sancha said. "We are as calm as needed, but the Police Department is the agency that establishes order in Puerto Rico, not the union leaders." General Workers Union President Juan Eliza Colon criticized Fortunato for "unleashing the Riot Squad on workers. The Riot Squad, as always, tramples the working class. They are animals," Colon said.

Even the outlawed anti-colonial guerrillas Los Macheteros re-appeared and issued a statement on September 23 calling for struggle and for solidarity with the affected working class.

The union movement has now taken center stage and has declared a national strike for October 15, 2009. Union leaders are publicly expressing that if some of the more painful measures – like layoffs - are not rolled back, they will move ahead with a general strike, bringing the country to a complete halt in order to force the government to change course. The administration is deeply worried. Aside from losing the next election, they know that the seeds of a general insurrection are being sowed: unemployment, discontent, desperation, and fear.

The Puerto Rico Independence Solidarity Movement (PRISM) in the U.S. has called for solidarity actions around the US, which holds Puerto Rico as a colonial possession. Ruben Solis of the Southwest Workers Union denounced the attacks on the people of Puerto Rico by the 'golpista' Governor of Puerto Rico and the political party in power (*Partido Nuevo Progresista* - PNP). The government is carrying out firings, service cuts, and education fee increases, the privatization of public resources, institutions and jobs, as well as monetary give-aways to private developers and foreign capitalists, destruction of public housing and evictions of poor people from their neighborhoods (Cano Martin Pena, Gladiolas, Villa del Sol to name only a few) for gentrification. To try to stamp out opposition to these measures the government has used massive repression by police of protestors and called out the National Guard. "We call on people and social movements in the US to support the present struggle of the people of Puerto Rico for self-determination and justice. It's time to get informed and to re-build solidarity with the struggle of Puerto Rico! We call on US people and social movements to support the Puerto Rican National Strike called for October 15, 2009!" Solis declared.

Roberto Garcia, 44, was arrested in Fajardo and charged with attempted assault and resisting arrest while using force against public authorities for throwing an egg, which missed, at Fortunato. "Hypocrite, how dare you speak of job creation when you are the one taking jobs?" Garcia is reported to have yelled as he tossed the egg.

False Prophets Looking for Large Profits

by Mohawk Nation News

The Akwesasne Women's Fire website was hijacked by a non-native, Monica Lamb Peters. She is posting flaky cult material and fraudulently soliciting donations on behalf of the genuine people who are involved in the international border issue. They unsuccessfully tried to retrieve the site, but have now had to set up a new one, www.akwpeoplesfire.com, tel: 1-613-937-1813. They need materials for a modest building: windows, insulation, etc. The following is from Native Pride.

Whatever this new group of Meredith Quinn/Lester Howse/Kenny Kapplemier/Larry Thompson/Donny Smoke followers call themselves [at Akwesasne], they should formally renounce themselves as Mohawks. [Some already have formally renounced their community, nation, confederacy and Great Law affiliations, calling themselves universal persons, citizens of the world]. They condemn the Kaianerehkowa. [They claim we Indigenous weren't original people here but came after the Moors of northern Africa and Spain. It could have to do with overthrowing our inherent rights to Great Turtle Island. False history is being created that conforms to their agenda, with the help of far-out handlers].

They play all kinds of semantics and prey on the ignorance of others. Yet they insist on using the people of Akwesasne, the Kanienkehaka, to build a foundation for their new religion/history/cult/scam. They come in and out of [our] Longhouses, that they don't believe in [and practically condemn]. They participate in meetings with "other Mohawk leaders", [and try to take over the agendas and subject others to their Camel/Donkey Treaty excreta] although they no longer consider themselves [to be] Mohawks. They hijacked the Akwesasne Women's Fire website posting full coverage of the Larry [King Tut] Thompson Show. The buzz is that they plan to use the history of Mohawk resistance to suck money out of Moammar Khaddafi of Libya and others.

What is the end game? I, like many, simply want to just ignore all this nonsense. But opportunists like these use events like the Kawehnoke [Cornwall Island border] issue to confuse and undermine the will of the people. Most of us are just plain embarrassed by their ramblings and antics. The problem is that when the patients take over the asylum, it is hard to tell the mad scientist from the mad men and the mad men from the mindless.

Someone is behind all this with a purpose. No, it isn't enlightenment or eternal life [nor the best interests of Indigenous]. It is something much easier to grasp: money. Most of us have gotten used to looking the other way while our neighbors figured out the next get-rich quick scheme [while taking advantage of native sovereignty]. This time it is different. It isn't about selling out your own ethics or morality; or jeopardizing your own freedom or security. It is about selling out our identity. There are plenty of non-native [interests] looking for a group of "onkwehonwe" to [use to] deny everything we stand for; sovereignty, freedom, ties to our land, stewards of that land, government by the people, equality, inherent rights, natural law and our connectedness to creation.

These "prophets of the camel's eye" are just what the doctor ordered to harm us. A few corrupt men can take advantage of those weakened by years of alcohol and drug abuse, desperate for something to believe in, abused or abandoned as kids, hooked on easy money and disgruntled. Those no one had ever done anything for. This isn't their first attempt. After making millions [using our sovereignty] and establishing themselves as the envy of others, ruling over them becomes the next brass ring to grab. These guys have worked in and out of every court, political and religious system and movements. They never learned who they were. It is no wonder that they are drawn to the Egyptians. In our way there is no hierarchy. These guys admire the pyramid, the symbol of wealth and power.

Here's an email from one of the camels that went to OPP cop school to jmkane, editor, Native Pride. Tue. 9/29/09: Hey John you are starting to sound like K. Horn. What gets you so upset because people are thinking and questioning history? you like to be quasi sovereign? well I don't. but that is a personal choice. anyway i disagree with your writing and the rant style you chose. maybe if you were here in the mix of what is happening you would be in some know.

BJD, a Kanion'ke:haka, suggested Kaianereh'ko:wa [Great Law] protocol: It is good that the [culprits are] named since you are directly familiar with their antics within our communities. This enables us who have not encountered them to be wary & prepared… I would call upon the Kanienke'ha:ka Nation's traditional authoritative bodies, the Otiyaner [Clan-Mothers] & Rotiya'ner [the Men] [on behalf of the people] to make a public statement denouncing these [counterfeit] Kanienke'ha:ka persons who are engaging in subversive activities.
MNN, www.mohawknationnews.com, kahentinetha2@yahoo.com

Boycotts as a Legitimate Means of Resistance As Determined by the Oppressed People

by Kim Petersen **NOTE:** ***TTT subsequently accepted a criticism for printing this piece, which validated a white supremacist, anti-Jewish media source disavowed by anti-imperialist forces in the Palestinian movement, who denounce racist and white supremacist forces that attach themselves to the issue.***

Prejudice does not always come with an ugly face. The same holds for Zionism and racism. It is entirely possible for well-intentioned people to hold a prejudice and, even worse, act on held prejudices.

Uri Avnery opposes the brutality inflicted on Palestinians. He campaigns for peace with Palestinians. But he also has a Zionist past. He is European born and fought for the terrorist Irgun in perpetration of a holocaust (Nakba) against Palestinans. He later renounced Irgun's tactics. He is antiwar, but he is not anti-the fruits of war. He approves of a two-state solution. In other words, Israeli Jews will keep the fruits of their dispossessing others — while continuing to press for the return of what they were dispossessed.

Avnery advocates selective use of tactics against Zionism. This is apparent when it comes to an international boycott of Israel. Avnery states that no one is better qualified than South African archbishop Desmond Tutu to answer this question.

What does Tutu say? He has called on the international community to treat Israel as it treated apartheid South Africa. Tutu supports the divestment campaign against Israel.

Avnery's fellow Israeli, Neve Gordon, agrees that it is time for a boycott. Avnery laments, "I am sorry that I cannot agree with him this time neither about the similarity with South Africa nor abouut the efficacy of a boycott of Israel."

Indeed, the apartheids — while in many respects similar — are also different. Gary Zaztman pointed to a key difference: "For all its serious and undoubted evils and the numerous crimes against humanity committed in its name, including physical slaughters, South African white-racist apartheid was not premised on committing genocide. Zionism, on the other hand, has been committed to dissolving the social, cultural, political and economic integrity of the Palestinian people, i.e., genocide, from the outset, at least as early as Theodor Herzl's injunction in his diaries that the 'transfer' of the Palestinian 'penniless population' elsewhere be conducted 'discreetly and circumspectly.'"

Boycotts as a Tactic against Racism

Avnery says Tutu told him: "The boycott was immensely important, much more than the armed struggle." But it was the revolutionary, Nelson Mandela, who refused to give up the right to armed struggle, who negotiated the dismantling of South African apartheid. Tutu also told Avnery, "The importance of the boycott was not only economic but also moral." Avnery writes, "It seems to me that Tutu's answer emphasizes the huge difference between the South African reality at the time and ours today." So what is Avnery saying? First he states that Tutu is best-qualified to speak to the effectiveness of boycotting as a tool in the fight against racism, then he says Tutu has it wrong. So is Avnery saying, then, that he himself is best qualified to speak on the effectiveness of boycotts against racism?

Avnery fears that Israeli Jews will feel "the whole world is against us." However, isn't that, in a sense, what the purpose is: to show that the whole world is against Jewish racism against Palestinians? It must be emphasized that the world is not against Jews, as Israeli propaganda would choose to portray it. Although he doesn't specifically state it, Avnery is using a version of the anti-Semitism smear: if you are against anything Israel does, then you are against Israelis. Hence, you are anti-Semitic. This grotesque perversion of morality and logic holds that to be against racism toward Palestinians makes one anti-Semitic.

Avnery admits, "In South Africa, the world-wide boycott helped in strengthening the majority and steeling [sic] it for the struggle. The impact of a boycott on Israel would be the exact opposite: it would push the large majority into the arms of the extreme right and create a fortress mentality against the 'anti-Semitic world'." (The boycott would, of course, have a different impact on the Palestinians, but that is not the aim of those who advocate it.) Avnery merely states what is the current status quo. Israel is already hunkered down in an extreme right fortress mentality. The boycott is not the cause. Avnery fixates on the population dynamics. What is the relevance of majority and minority in Avnery's reasoning? It would seem that Palestinians being in the minority and the fact that the Palestinians support the boycott to be even greater reason for international support of the boycott. Who and what is Avnery protecting: Palestinians from racism or Israeli Jews from the economic effects and moral stigma of an international boycott?

As for the aim of the boycott campaign: "to deny Israel the financial means to continue to kill Palestinians and occupy the lands." Avnery raises the Holocaust, arguing that Jewish suffering has imprinted itself deeply on the Jewish soul. But what is the lesson of World War II? That suffering imposed on any identifiable group of people is evil and wrong, or that one group can appropriate a holocaust, make it their own, and use past suffering as a shield to inflict a holocaust on another people? Avnery argues that boycotting Jews will remind them of Nazism, but when Jews use Nazi-type techniques what should they be reminded of? Avnery says it is okay to boycott of the product of the "settlements." He draws a distinction between "settlers" (i.e., "colonizers") and other Israeli Jews. How then does Avnery rationalize the fact that the "settlers" are in the West Bank?

Avnery asserts, "Those who call for a boycott act out of despair." But indeed, despair is life for many Palestinians under occupation or in refugee camps. Avnery states that an international boycott would be difficult to achieve, and the US would not be behind it. It was not easy to achieve against the apartheid regimes in South Africa either. Is that a reason not to try? Did not the US oppose a boycott of South Africa? Yes, it might take a long time. But times do change. The recalcitrance of the US (and its western allies) was steam rolled in Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, and elsewhere. Empires have risen and fallen throughout history.

Avnery finds that the tactic of boycotting is "an example of a faulty diagnosis leading to faulty treatment. To be precise: the mistaken assumption that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resembles the South African experience leads to a mistaken choice of strategy." Avnery continues, "In South Africa there was total agreement between the two sides about the unity of the country. The struggle was about the regime. Both Whites and Blacks considered themselves South Africans and were determined to keep the country intact. The Whites did not want partition, and indeed could not want it, because their economy was based on the labor of the Blacks." How can Avnery state something so factually inaccurate? What were Venda, Lebowa, the Bantustans, if not sections of South Africa partitioned off by the White government for the relocation of Black South African 'outside' South Africa? Furthermore, that Zionism is now no longer dependent on Palestinian labor doesn't mask that it at one time was dependent on such labor; Avnery is cherry picking in his argument. Denying Palestinians the right to work in historical Palestine is a tactic that evolved from Zionism.

Also, how is it that Avnery can argue against an international boycott of Israel when Israel maintains a crushing illegal embargo against Palestinians a war crime? As long as Israel uses such a tactic, then resistance through boycott, certainly, is legitimate.

Avnery says Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs have nothing in common. However, this same lack of commonality was distinctly true among White and Black South Africans as well. I take exception with the thrust of such argumentation. It prepares the ground for racism. Israeli Jews, Palestinians, Black and White South Africans are all humans. They all eat, work, sleep, have dreams and families. This should be reason enough to act humanely toward each other: love of humanity. It is entirely possible to embrace our shared humanity and respect diversity.

Avnery concludes, "In short: the two conflicts are fundamentally different. Therefore, the methods of struggle, too, must necessarily be different." This is flawed reasoning, much like the logical and moral flaw that being a victim of a genocide minimizes one's own culpability in a subsequent genocide. One suspects that Avnery may well be the victim of a pained conscience and cognitive dissonance. I submit that the two struggles are fundamentally similar. Fundamentally, colonial Israel and colonial South Africa share these hallmarks: a racially, culturally, spiritually, linguistically different group of outsiders, through preponderant violence, dispossessed Indigenous peoples of their homeland, and set up an apartheid system which humiliates the Indigenous peoples and privileges the occupiers.

Avnery focuses on certain "fundamentals"— which I submit are mere nuances — that he considers different. Avnery's solution lies with "a comprehensive and detailed peace plan" from US president Barack Obama and "the full persuasive power of the United States" to lead to "a path of peace with Palestine." Avnery must remembers previous US-backed peace plans, Oslo and the Roadmap. Why, then, does he cast his hope on AIPAC appeaser Obama? Avnery hopes that Israeli Jews will realize that peace with Palestinians is the way? Avnery touts a solution that has failed and been rejected many times. He rejects a solution that worked in South African because of the sensibilities of the oppressors.

But let us examine Avnery's logic that fundamentally different "conflicts" demand different struggles. Oppression is overthrown by struggle. Fundamentally different "conflicts" can succeed through similar struggles. As one example, revolutionaries overthrew a US-backed dictatorship in Cuba through armed struggle and Cuban revoluntionaries defeated South African forces in Angola through armed struggle.

In his finale, seemingly in assuredness of his own argument over the person he deems the best qualified authority on boycotts as a tool to overcome apartheid, Avnery points to a prayer of Tutu's a prayer that would serve all of us well: "Dear God, when I am wrong, please make me willing to see my mistake. And when I am right please make me tolerable to live with." Hopefully, Avnery abides by such humility when he sees the error of his ways, as well.

Kim Petersen is co-editor of Dissident Voice.

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK

FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) **WE GO WHERE THEY GO:** Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) **WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US:** This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) **NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS:** In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) **We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom.** ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a free classless society. **WE INTEND TO WIN!**

Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)*PO Box 1055*CULVER CITY CA 90232*310-495-0299
antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com*www.antiracistaction.us

Northwest Nazi Campout Draws Small Crowd, Invites Anti-fascist Attention

By Rose City Anti-Fa

On the weekend of September 12-13, 2009, Oregon neo-Nazis Dylan Cale Marchand and Daniel Lee Jones organized a white supremacist gathering at private property near Vancouver, Washington. According to internet promotion, the "racialist BBQ and Camp out" featured a speaker who had been involved with George Lincoln Rockwell's original American Nazi Party, and also included "a bonfire, Jew piñata and other activities."

Among other places, the campout was promoted on:

- the "Northwest Imperative" Facebook page, which promotes the concept of turning the Pacific Northwest into a "whites-only" homeland;
- the Hammerskin Nation forum, the primary communications outlet for the Hammerskins bonehead (racist "skinhead") organization;
- the eNationalist forum, associated with Nordwave: The Voice of National Socialism; and
- the Vanguard News Network forum, another clearinghouse for neo-Nazi news, opinion and gossip.

While the campout itself was small, it represented an attempt to draw together fragmented tendencies within the white supremacist subculture, and to unite them into a stronger regional movement. The event was an attempt to build momentum for neo-Nazi organizing, albeit a meager one. We believe that such efforts have no place in our communities and should be stamped out at an early stage.

About the Campout Organizers:

Dylan Cale Marchand is a Salem, Oregon-based neo-Nazi who is a former associate of Matthew Ramsey's now-defunct Tualatin Valley Skins as well as an ex-member of the National Socialist Movement. Marchand achieved notoriety in 2005 for adopting a highway in Marion County, Oregon, in the name of the "American Nazi Party NSM" and then failing to clean up his stretch after the signs were posted. He was also spotted at the National Socialist Movement rallies in Olympia, Washington during January and April, 2006. Marchand seemingly has decided to step up his white supremacist activism once again. Rose City Antifa has sent a mailing to over one hundred immediate neighbors of Marchand's house (4628 Treeside Drive NE, Salem, OR 97305) in order to warn them of his history and bigoted activities. We also encourage people not to support Marchand's Treeside Landscape Maintenance business.

Daniel Lee Jones, whose last known place of residence is 10370 SW Del Monte Drive, Tigard, OR 97224, is best known for his 2008 campaign of flying Third Reich flags over the Portland metro area by means of helium balloons. Jones is also responsible for hanging banners that promoted the American National Socialist Workers Party (ANSWP) over freeway overpasses the year before. The leader of the neo-Nazi ANSWP, Bill White, is currently facing state charges relating to threats he made against perceived enemies on his overthrow.com website. Dan Jones, who was heavily involved with the ANSWP, is now involved with the "Free Bill White" web site. Jones was active in promoting the Vancouver campout, and his cell phone number was given as a contact for the event on some announcements. Rose City Antifa encourages Mr. Jones not to draw further attention to himself by Nazi activism.

If you have anything to say to these organizers, just give them a call:

Dylan Marchand: 503-269-5514 Daniel Jones: 503-807-8706

Please remember to block your phone number (*67) before calling.

And in other developments...The David Irving Connection

On Sunday, July 19, British neo-fascist and Holocaust-denier David Irving passed through Portland, Oregon as part of a speaking tour. Rose City Antifa and many other anti-racists protested Irving's appearance at the Embassy Suites Hotel by the airport, but the hotel disgraced itself by allow Irving's speech to go ahead despite having been informed of the event's true nature. Following the Irving event, National Socialist Movement member (and funeral director) Corinna Luray Burt of West Linn wrote an enthusiastic account of her experience, mentioning that she had "met someone there [...] one of the founders of the American Nazi Party. [...] Never have I been so proud to be a White National Socialist."

Dylan Marchand's name also appears on the registration list for the July 19 Irving event. On the Hammerskin Nation forum, Marchand wrote about plans for his upcoming September campout:

"We do got [sic] a speaker from george lincoln rockwells [sic] american nazi party coming. Hes in his 70s and has some real good storys [sic] to tell."

Given the small number of "proud ex-members" of the American Nazi Party, we presume that Burt and Marchand were both referring to the same person in their respective internet posts. This affirms that the Irving talk was, as we have always stated, a fascist networking event, in which links and plans were made. Also note that all of those attending at Embassy Suites were personally screened for approval by Irving and his personal assistant, Jaenelle Antas. Not only was the Irving talk itself a fascist event, but it appears to have energized and encouraged other neo-Nazi activity, such as Marchand's campout, perhaps being the source of its main speaker.

Whenever white supremacists, fascists and anti-Semites organize in our area, Rose City Antifa considers itself invited to respond. This summer has been a busy one for fascist organizers of many stripes, but antifascists are prepared to put Portland on the map for consistently confronting and eliminating their ability to organize.

No compromise and no half-measures!

Rose City Antifa fight_them_back@riseup.net voicemail: 971-533-7832
http://portland.indymedia.org/en/2009/09/394197.shtml

LOVE Park 4 Update - Appeal Status and Court Solidarity: Presiding Judge Demands Disclosure of Undercover Police Officers

by The Love Park 4 Defense Committee

Last week, President Judge Marsha Neifeld issued a scathing opinion addressing the Commonwealth's appeal of her original order to reveal the identities of the undercover police officers involved in the LOVE Park 4 case.

After issuing her original order last December, the District Attorney's office appealed and the case ended up before Appeals Court Judge Frank Palumbo. After months of arguments between the Commonwealth and defense attorneys Paul Hetznecker and Lawrence Krasner, Judge Palumbo - claiming he did not have enough information to make an informed decision - sent the case back to Judge Neifeld for further clarification on why she ordered the identity of the undercover offers to be revealed to the defendants and their attorneys.

At http://docs.google.com/fileview?id=0B0sJ-0VIvVcTNWZjYWEzYzMtODFiZi00OTlmLWJiM2UtZGVhMDdhYzkxZTZh&hl=en you can find Judge Neifeld's Finding of Fact and Conclusions of Law regarding disclosure of undercover police officers. It is a 6-page long laundry list of what she found wrong with the prosecutor's case and why the identity of the undercover officers is essential for the defense. She concludes asserting her opinion that she did not commit an abuse of discretion, as the District Attorney's office is claiming, instead restating that her decision was "reasonable and sound and based on a proper application of the law" and asking Judge Palumbo to affirm her decision; thus denying the Commonwealth's appeal.

Tom, Jared and Jason are scheduled for a hearing on the Commonwealth's appeal on October 16 - back in front of Judge Palumbo. If people can make it, they would love to have the support of their friends and comrades. Court is scheduled to start at 9:00AM at the Criminal Justice Center, 1301 Filbert Street, Philadelphia, Rm 504.

Background on the Love Park 4

On July 23, 2007, four Philadelphia-area anti-racist activists were arrested on multiple trumped up charges stemming from a counter-demonstration against a Ku Klux Klan rally that had been scheduled to take place in Center City that morning.

Two men wearing neo-Nazi t-shirts were verbally confronted by anti-racists and forced to leave. The men then boarded a waiting SUV, at which time another verbal confrontation ensued, at the end of which one of the SUV's windows was damaged.

Police personnel waited until this point to break their cover and identify themselves - the driver of the SUV was a Philadelphia Police Detective attached to an FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force while the passenger and owner of the vehicle was an FBI special agent.

Questions regarding the LOVE Park 4 case can be directed to Philadelphia Anti-Racist Action at 215-543-3812

www.myspace.com/supportlovepark4

Racism In Kensington, MD

Action report by a member of Baltimore-DC NEFAC:

A controversial flyer distributed on Decatur Street here depicts six Klansmen in their white hoods and asks if neighbors want to see that in their neighborhood. It was prompted by the announcement that a controversial director of the group Council of Concerned Citizens would be addressing a local chapter of the group in the Decatur Street home of Peter Papaheraklis.

Papaheraklis was infuriated by the flyer, which, he says, distorts the views of the Council of himself. "We're maybe to the right of center, but we're not extremists of any kind," says Papaheraklis. "We're not, by far, the KKK." The flyer is unsigned and has no contact information. Papaheraklis says its author is a coward for not identifying himself.

The flyer was created by a man who identified himself only as "Alex" from Alexandria, a representative of a group called the One Peoples Project. Alex told TV news reporters he fears retaliation if he identifies himself. He insists his portrayal is fair. "You can take off the Klan hood and still be a Klansman," said Alex. "Just because they try to dress it up as something more palatable to the mainstream doesn't change the fact that it's white supremacist garbage," he said of the Council of Concerned Citizens.

The protest was born when demonstrators learned the Decatur Street meeting would be addressed by well-known speaker Paul Fromm, a Canadian citizen who has strong feelings about immigration policy in North America.

"The founding European People will be the minority here in the States by about 2042, if something isn't done about immigration, and in my own country by about 2045. There will be the biggest change in population possible without actually an armed invasion... America is not the country to day that it was 25 years ago and that's not for the good... with a changing population you will have a change in morals, a change in attitude. The civilization that you have that has worked so well was created by European and when the population base is changed, then it will be a different country and, I suspect, not a better country," Fromm told the media.

The leaflet, demo and resulting media exposure pulled the covers off the racists in the CCC.

Call for October 22, 2009:

National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation

We don't want to live like this! We resist! On October 22nd, wear black! Join our protest and fight back! NO MORE STOLEN LIVES!

2009 started off with at least six cases nationally of police killings and brutality on New Year's Day.

Oakland, California erupted in outrage over the killing of Oscar Grant, shot in the back while handcuffed in front of many BART commuter witnesses. That same day, Adolph Grimes from NewO rleans was killed by 48 bullets while sitting in his car in front of his grandmother's house. In a suburb of Houston, Robbie Tolan was shot in his own driveway (but survived), after protesting the way the cops roughed up his mother. Deaths at the hands oflaw enforcement officers were also reported from Los Angeles, Grand Rapids, Sacramento, and Seattle.

During Memorial Day week (May 24 –30), law enforcement officers killed at least 23 people nationally in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois,
Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, and Washington.

In May, many watched in horror the YouTube video that captured Toledo, Ohio police beating and choking fourteen-year old Trevor Casey. There are numerous videos of police brutality, including the tasering of 37-year-old Audra Harmon while her children watched from the car, after she was stopped by an Onondaga County cop for allegedly talking on her cell-phone. While arguing that tasers are "safe" and "humane", police throughout the country have killed with tasers, and have gone so far as to taser pregnant women, 72-year old grandmothers and six-year olds, and to sodomize a handcuffed man with a taser.

Police brutality is as intense as ever throughout the nation, and resistance is even more important now when too many have bought into the illusions of a "post-racial society." There are some who believe that because we have a black President in office that everything will be okay now, that we no longer need to struggle and protest. The racial profiling arrest of Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and the shooting death of off-duty black police officer Omar Edwards by fellow NYPD should have proven that false. This year, political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal's appeal has been denied, as was probation for Leonard Peltier.

The truth is that we have never achieved anything without a fight. In August 2009, Juanita Young's entire family was brutalized and arrested in a police raid. As Juanita (mother of Malcolm Ferguson, killed by NYPD in 2000) says,

"You can't give in. They will try to make an example out of you, try to break your spirit. If you don't resist and keep on fighting, they will be able to get away with what they're trying to do to us."

Immigrant families across the country are being torn apart. The expansion in July 2009 of 287(g) of the Illegal Immigration Law, empowering local law enforcement agencies to make immigration arrests, has resulted in an increase of racial profiling arrests (DWH, Driving While Hispanic). ICE recently revealed that there were ten deaths of immigrants in their custody that were not previously reported, which makes the total number of detainees who have died under ICE custody up to 104 since 2003. There have also been many reports of physical and sexual abuse of inmates by prison staff in federal prisons and detention centers across the nation.

October 22nd is a powerful day for going up against this repression, because it brings together those directly under the gun of police violence with other sections of society not under the gun. It challenges the "divide and conquer" that keeps us apart, bringing people of different backgrounds to stand together to expose and oppose these outrages. October 22nd is the day when people all over the country demand a STOP to police violence, repression, and the criminalization of a generation. In different cities and through different means of expression, we raise a resounding "NO" to these police raids, attacks on the youth and immigrants, and destroying of lives.

Link up to the nationwide protests through the October 22nd website, http://october22.org. Email information on your own plans to info@october22.org. Endorse this call, give financially, spread the word, and step out on October 22nd! In Los Angeles, the demonstration and rally will take place in Leimert Park.

October 22nd Coalition P.O. Box 2627, New York NY 10009
1-888-NO BRUTALITY

Charges Dismissed! Another Victory Against Youth for Western Civilization

In an exciting new development in the ongoing struggle against the racist college group Youth for Western Civilization, protesters achieved a stunning victory in court on Monday, September 14th. Seven different individuals, only one of whom was a University of North Carolina student, had been arrested on various charges of disorderly conduct and "disrupting a University event" this past spring. The arrests occurred during and after two separate speech attempts by speakers invited by Youth for Western Civilization. The first of those two "speeches" ended with ex-congressman and anti-immigrant presidential candidate Tom Tancredo being chased off campus by a mob of angry anti-racist students and community members.

In court, UNC student Haley Koch's case was heard first, and was dismissed by Judge Joseph Buckner after he determined that her behavior did not significantly interfere with academic activity. After one of the protesters plead guilty, and another took deferred prosecution, the four remaining comrades represented themselves with pleas of not guilty. They verbally sparred with the Assistant District Attorney for over an hour, bringing up court cases and poking holes in the testimony of police officers, until finally the Judge dismissed three of their cases. The final protester, who was directly videotaped holding a banner and screaming, "I'm a Southern working man, and I STILL think you're a racist!" at ex-politician Virgil Goode, continued to defend himself, and was ultimately found not guilty.

This day in court is a tremendous victory for those fighting Youth for Western Civilization, and perhaps represents a precedent of sorts for those dealing with chapters of the group in their area. The existence of the organization on UNC's campus has been in question since their faculty advisor quit under pressure over the summer. A new faculty member, Professor Emeritus of Psychology Elliot M. Cramer, has agreed to be the group's new advisor under harsh criticism. The group has had no public events, and their new president Nikhil Patel has gone on record as saying he doesn't agree with the national organization's politics.

Patel's statement appeared in the UNC newspaper on the first day of fall classes, the same day in which 3,000 copies of that paper were wrapped with a radical "special anti-racist issue," demonstrating that resistance has continued to YWC despite the initial arrests. Now, the majority of those charges have been dismissed. Hopefully this successful day in court will inspire students and non-students alike to continue to confront the white supremacist group, towards its eventual abolition.

http://news.infoshop.org/article.php?story=20090919101824551

Support David Japenga, friend of ARA denied bail in G20 Protests!

The massive police repression and overkill in Pittsburgh PA for the protests against the G20 summit are a measure of the brittle nature of the state and the economy in the midst of the deepening and ongoing contraction and crisis of the Empire. As the supposed recovery exposes itself as a giveaway to finance capital and insurance company, and jobs continue to evaporate, the rulers cannot allow resistance to take root. That's why the protests against the G20 Summit drew a massively disproportionate level of state repression, particular after the protests surprised the original efforts at suppression with their size, creativity and militance. As a result, the cops resorted to massive sweeps, and to targeting some organizers as scapegoats. One such is David Japenga, a friend of ARA.

Supporters packed the courtroom on Wednesday Sept. 30th at 8am to stand with David Japenga, swept up by cops during the police rioting that happened in Pittsburgh due to the G20 protests. David Japenga was arrested on Thursday and was given trumped up charges blaming him for the bulk of property destruction that happened during night-time demonstrations in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh. The police and media are looking for a scapegoat due to their embarrassing inability to control demonstrations on Thursday and Friday, and their own massively illegal behavior. A judge has revoked bail for David and he was being held in Allegheny County Jail pending his formal arraignment and preliminary hearing.

This is a call for monetary assistance and courtroom solidarity for David.
We are raising money to hire a private defense attorney and to pay his bail should be he granted it on Wednesday. If you can give any money towards his defense, email freedavidjapenga@hushmail.com or paypal it to antiracistactionstore@gmail.com.

David Japenga is innocent! Drop the charges! Pack the courtroom at any further hearings or trial to show your support and to let David know he is not alone!

G-20 protesters light up the night in Pittsburgh demonstration against the globalized bailout of capital on the backs of poor and oppressed people.

PayPal all donations for David Japenga's defense to antiracistactionstore@gmail.com

Black is Back!

November 7th anti-war rally to challenge Obama regime's wars on Africans and oppressed peoples around the world

Who: **The Black is Back Coalition for Social Justice, Peace and Reparations**
What: **Rally and March**
When: **Saturday, November 7, 2009, 10am-6pm**
Where: **Malcolm X Park, Washington, D.C.**
Contacts:
Omali Yeshitela 727.821.6621
Chioma Oruh 202.320.5542 info@blackisbackcoalition.org
Rosa Clemente 646.721.7441 knowthyself@mac.com
Jared Ball 202.997.0267 freemixradio@voxunion.com
Website: blackisbackcoalition.org

Washington, D.C. – A newly-formed Black coalition has announced a rally and march on the White House to take place November 7, 2009 beginning in Washington, D.C.'s historic Malcolm X Park. The Rally and March are to protest the expanding U.S. wars and other policy initiatives that unfairly target African and other oppressed people around the world. Known as the Black is Back Coalition for Social Justice, Peace and Reparations, the coalition formed on September 12, 2009 during a meeting in Washington, D.C. of more than fifteen activists from various Black organizations, institutions and communities.

The Black is Back Coalition aims to draw upon the support of many of the leading anti-imperialist organizations, journalists, organizers, artists and scholars of the African world. In this age of Obama, the rally and march on November 7, 2009 aim to bring back the tradition of resistance historically associated with Black communities around the world. Comprised of seasoned veterans of Black political struggle, including members of the African People's Socialist Party, the NAACP, MOVE, the Green Party, Black Agenda Report and many other grassroots organizations and efforts, this coalition is perfectly situated to do just that.

As the coalition's Call to Action states, "Many well-meaning people in this country and around the world are afraid to take more progressive political positions for fear of being seen as anti-Black…We need to remind people of the absolute lack of 'progress' since new faces assumed leadership of this nation. Many of the leading concerns of Black people, Latinos and working people in this country remain insufficiently addressed. Black and Brown people continue to suffer the brunt of un/under-employment and predatory loan scandal crises. Military spending under Obama has increased as have the warfare this nation continues to export to Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Venezuela and Colombia. Mass incarceration, police brutality and political imprisonment remain rampant and the most negatively impacted by the levee breech in post-Katrina New Orleans continue to be without homes, jobs or health care assistance. And to that point, these are precisely the communities who nationally will be the most negatively affected by yet another myth of health care 'reform.'"

The political paralysis now being experienced by anti-war and other progressive movements stems from the lack of a Black-led, anti-imperial movement that would off-set the traps set by Obama's so-called "post-racial" politics that facilitate the same oppressive militarist agenda well known during the Bush regime.

Black is Back is not simply a slogan for the African Diaspora but for all progressive struggles which have historically benefited from Black-led movements. On November 7, 2009 beginning promptly at 10am, all are welcome to participate in the rally and march which will include many speakers and performers of the coalition. They will stand and demonstrate in political solidarity, announcing the return to leadership of the world's most reliably anti-war and pro-social justice communities. As the coalition says, "To free our people's hopes and dreams from oblivion, we need a coalition dedicated to the proposition that Black is Back!"

Black is Back Steering Committee:
Omali Yeshitela, APSP - Chair
Ayesha Fleary, AAPDEP - Secretary
Yaa Asantewq Ohema, NCOBRA – Fundraiser
Jared Ball, Vox Union Media – Media Coordinator
Rosa Clemente, Green Party – Program Coordinator
Efia Nwangaza, Malcolm X Center Self Determination – Recruitment Coordinator
Chioma Oruh, ASI North America–Outreach Coordinator
Ousainou Mbenga – APSP – Logistics Coordinator
Rich Piedrahita – APSP – Graphic Designer/Website Mgr
Riley Hamilton – Uhuru Radio – Website Manager

Prisonhouse of Nations: A Review of Mumia Abu-Jamal's 'Jailhouse Lawyers'

By Richard D. Vogel © 2009 by Richard D. Vogel

Mumia Abu-Jamal, *Jailhouse Lawyers: Prisoners Defending Prisoners v. The U.S.A*, forward by Angela Y. Davis (San Francisco: City Light Books, 2009), 286 pp, pbk, $16.95.

More than a book about prisoners defending prisoners in what the author justly calls "the Prisonhouse of Nations," Mumia Abu-Jamal's *Jailhouse Lawyers* has the potential to jump-start the prison reform movement in the US. In addition to telling the individual stories of the best (and worst) jailhouse lawyers defending themselves and their fellow prisoners in the face of official hostility and, in many instances personal danger, and presenting a lively history of jailhouse lawyering in modern America, Abu-Jamal exposes the political and racial bias of the US criminal justice system and explores the role of jailhouse lawyers in the jungle of American law.

Abu-Jamal's book is remarkable because it is totally accessible and informative for newcomers and veteran prison activists alike. The reader of *Jailhouse Lawyers* is treated to a wide array of vital information from Clarence Darrow's sensational "Address to the Prisoners of Cook County Jail" which candidly exposed the truth about "justice" in America, to a masterful evaluation of the landmark legal battles of inmate David Ruiz in Texas that changed the face of incarceration in America.

In chapter 3, "When Jailhouse Lawyers 'Represent'", Abu-Jamal offers stirring accounts of winning legal self-defenses mounted by the accused that have never been told before. The success story of John and Alfonso Africa, both members of MOVE, a revolutionary community organization that was targeted by the Philadelphia police in the early 1980's, is a sterling example. Charged with the illegal procurement of weapons and bomb making materials, the two men faced more than a decade in federal prison. To the chagrin of the judge, the prosecutor, and their own court-appointed backup attorneys, the Africas insisted on representing themselves in their own way -- and won. Their story is an epic of unorthodox courtroom drama. Abu-Jamal's survey of the "best of the best" jailhouse lawyers includes the legendary inmate-litigator Richard Mayberry who once threw a book at the judge presiding over his case (In retaliation Mayberry was sentenced to an additional 10 to 22 years in prison for contempt, another charge that he successfully challenged in court.) and a talented and successful woman prisoner-litigant who insists on remaining anonymous despite significant legal victories for her fellow inmates. Abu-Jamal reserves the title "worst of the worst" for jailhouse-lawyer snitches who betray their clients for personal advantage.

Abu-Jamal's reporting in *Jailhouse Lawyers* is exemplary; however, it is his political analysis of punishment in America that provides the background for challenging the foundation of the Prisonhouse of Nations.

Chapter 2, "What 'the Law' Is", is the political heart of the book. In this succinct history of the legal profession, Abu-Jamal explores how criminal law has been practiced in the US. From the Slave Codes of colonial America to the modern neoconservative initiative to deny prisoners access to the courts, the author traces the in terplay of race and social class in criminal law upon which the American Prisonhouse is built. The conclusion of Abu-Jamal's history, based on the insights of keen observers, the blatantly biased decisions of the courts, and his own personal experience, is unequivocal, "The law is a tool of class domination and, as we have seen of racial domination as well." (p. 62). In chapter 2, Abu-Jamal also exposes the misinformation that neoconservative politicians put forth in order to pass the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA) of 1996 that was specifically designed to silence the voices of jailhouse lawyers. Abu-Jamal's probing analysis of the role played by the mainstream media in promoting the PLRA exposes the way that official propaganda has historically been used to manipulate public opinion on the issues of crime and punishment in America.

Abu-Jamal presents the radical alternative to US prison injustice in chapter 8, which chronicles the career of social prisoner-jailhouse lawyer- revolutionary Ed Mead. Mead, who began his criminal career at age 13, was goaded to resistance by his conviction for a crime that he didn't commit. Out of a sense of outrage and for the primal purpose of self-defense, he became a jailhouse lawyer. Initially apolitical, Mead went about his business of hustling other prisoners but couldn't help noticing the social class difference between the prisoner population and the people who supported the system. His transformation to revolutionary occurred while he was incarcerated at McNeil Island in Washington State. In the heat of the battle to defend a prisoner-initiated work strike in 1971, Mead came to the realization that the bitter conflict inside the walls at McNeil was part of the nascent class struggle that was threatening the status quo across the nation. Though he has experienced considerable success as a prisoner-litigant, Mead recognizes the severe limitations of practicing jailhouse law. The conclusion that he draws from his incarceration and resistance cuts straight to the chase -- "The main thing," he observes, "is to put jailhouse lawyering in the context of class struggle." Out of prison now, Mead sees his role as a radicalizing agent whose job is to deliver ex-prisoners to the cause of social revolution.

That the fight for justice for the men and women behind bars in America must be part of a broader struggle for social justice in the nation at large is an underlying theme ofJailhouse Lawyers. It is in this vein that Abu-Jamal concludes his argument for justice behind bars: "The best impetus for successful jailhouse lawyering is successful social movement to move the law and society beyond the barriers of the past. No movement can effectively exist in a vacuum; we are all interconnected. Jailhouse lawyers must look beyond the state's imprisoning bars, brick, and cement to build relationships with others in the so-called 'free' world to further and support social movements that spread liberating and progressive space within society." (p. 248) It's time for us to shake off what Abu-Jamal calls the "Big Chill" of the Reagan era and rejoin the fight. It is becoming increasingly clear in the course of the ongoing political and economic crisis that the Prison-house of Nations is unsustainable and an opportunity for change will soon be at hand. If those of us in the "free" world join forces with jailhouse lawyers and prisoner-activists to meet the challenge, a better outcome could be forthcoming this time around.

Other publications received by *TTT:* *Blood and Politics: The History of the White Nationalist Movement from the Margins to the Mainstream,* by Leonard Zeskind; Farrar Straus New York, 2009, $37.50. ***Black Rider African Intercommunal New,*** Volume 2 #1Summer 2009. ***Northern Aggression: Proj. Boneyard v.2*** CD from www.insurgence.net and www.turnitdown.com for the Campaign Against White Power Music. Reviews will appear in the next issue of ***Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education,*** Volume 23, Number 1, January-March 2010. If you want to make sure that issue appears, please respond to the subscription appeal on page 2 of this issue. ***Turning the Tide*** can't stay in print with its unique anti-colonialist perspective without your support!

UPCOMING LOS ANGELES AREA ANTI-RACIST ACTIONS:

Friday, January 8, 8:30 AM: Justice for Oscar Grant
Demonstration and Press Conference at the opening hearing for killer cop Johannes Mehserle at 210 West Temple St., the downtown LA Criminal Courts building (Dept. 104, Judge Perry)

Sunday, January 10, 3-5:00 PM: Troubled Waters
Amnesty International report on Israeli control and expropriation of Palestinian water, presented by BDS-LA (Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions Coalition), endorsed by LA Jews for Peace, Women in Black

Sun., Jan. 17, 5 pm: LA Coalition 4 Justice 4 Oscar Grant
The official founding meeting of the local L.A. coalition will take place at Chuco's Justice Center, 1137 W. Redondo Blvd., Inglewood (2 blocks w. of Crenshaw, 1 block n. of Florence)

Mon., Jan. 18: Martin Luther King Day march
Join one of the anti-racist, anti-war contingents in the annual march in LA's Crenshaw district

Friday, January 22: Anniversary of Roe v. Wade
Defend abortion access and women's reproductive rights against the Christian fascists

Sat., Jan. 23, Teach-In on the Economic Crisis
Grassroots KPFK Coalition presents former presidential candidate Cynthia McKinney and other speakers on how to fight back against foreclosures, layoffs, and build grassroots survival programs

Sun., Jan. 24, Second L.A. Anarchist Book Fair
Workshops, speakers, merchandise, literature and more at the Barnsdall Art Park in Silverlake/East Hollywood

Sat., February 6, 1-3 PM, AWARE-LA Saturday dialog
Alliance of White Anti-Racists Everywhere holds their monthly Saturday dialogue

Thursday, March 4: Defend Public Education
Statewide day of student-teacher-community action to overturn draconian state budget cuts of the University of California/Cal State U/Community College/K-12/adult education systems.

Sat., March 20: Stop the Wars and Occupation
Protest marches in L.A., San Francisco, DC, and probably elsewhere

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Stop Killer Cops!

Build Communities of Resistance!

Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror
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Stop Police Abuse Now!
Build Inter-Communal Resistance and Community Self-Defense

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror*** (ARA-LA/PART)

One year ago, in a particularly blatant and unusually well-documented police killing, Oscar Grant was shot and killed in Oakland CA while restrained on a metro station, by Bay Area Rapid Transit cop Johannes Mehserle. Even though Grant was unarmed, posed no threat and was shot point blank, Mehserle was initially not even questioned, and was allowed to resign and leave the state until Oakland residents and others outraged by the killing and the injustice rose up in righteous anger. More than 100 people were arrested by Oakland cops, often brutally, but the forceful community resistance forced the Alameda County District Attorney to file murder charges against Mehserle, the first time a California cop has ever been charged with murder for an on-duty shooting. Fearing further uprisings in Oakland, particularly after another shooting incident in the city left Lovelle Mixon and two Oakland cops dead, the courts approved a change of venue to Los Angeles. The initial L.A. proceedings were scheduled, as we went to press, for January 8, 2010, and local activists (including ARA-LA) are organizing to seek justice for Oscar Grant. A demonstration is scheduled at Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center (commonly referred to as the Criminal Courts Building), 210 West Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. Proceedings in Dept. 104 - Judge Perry's courtroom are scheduled for 8:30 AM. People will rally outside starting at 7:00 AM, with several people on line early to get inside the courtroom.

But as unprecedented as a murder prosecution of a cop may be in California, we should not imagine that justice can be found in the courts. Police killings and shootings, almost all carried out with impunity, are epidemic in the U.S. And despite a few highly publicized cases of officers being shot, the number of police fatalities and line-of-duty shootings, never very high, actually registered historic lows over the past year. Meanwhile, militarization of the police, as well as consolidation of local police forces into joint anti-terrorist task forces with the FBI and into federally-organized immigration-enforcement campaigns, continue. Moreover, the killings, typically of Black and indigenous/Mexicano youth by cops of European descent, are the tip of the iceberg, resting atop more numerous beatings, abuse, traffic stops and searches and stop-and-frisk operations on the streets. "Driving while Black (or Brown)" has become a cliché. Nor are the police alone involved in such racism and injustice. The entire criminal "justice" system is a colonial operation, in which, for example, a higher percentage of Black drug-users and sellers are arrested than of white drug users and dealers. Of those arrested, a progressively higher percentage of Blacks are charged, tried, convicted and sentenced, and they are sentenced to longer terms. The vast increase in incarceration over the past 3 decades under the so-called "war on drugs," and the regime of harsh sentencing and restricted parole, has come overwhelmingly at the expense of young people of color. The police and the courts serve as a transmission belt for such youth from under-funded schools to well-endowed prisons.

Thirty years ago, a book produced by the *Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional* (MLN), then a joint Puerto Rican-Mexicano organization, put forward an analysis of and solution to this problem in its very title: "Disarm the Police or Arm the People." The MLN outlined the development of organized police forces in the U.S. to the class relations of colonialism and capitalism, beginning after the US war of aggression and conquest against Mexico. Then, vigilante forces of settlers were organized into the Texas and Arizona Rangers to subdue the resistance of the indigenous Mexicano population. After the Civil War, when slavery and private slave patrols were ended, the state assumed responsibility for control of the African population, and plantations were converted into (still-existing) prisons so that slavery could continue under the constitutionally authorized condition of "penal servitude." Later still, after the Indian Wars, settlement of the interior, building of the transcontinental railroads and development of the industrial corporate capitalist system, urbanization and the importation of large numbers of Asian and eastern and southern European proletarians led to the development of city police forces. They augmented the private goon squads and Pinkertons hired by the robber barons to discipline their work force.

With the emergence of world-wide communist and anarchist labor movements in the early 20th Century, federal police forces (such as the FBI) were created. Mass white supremacist forces like the reborn Ku Klux Klan were deputized to police anti-war dissidents and labor organizers, and to "Americanize" the immigrant population. Later US victory in World War II, along with the victories of anti-colonial and anti-capitalist forces throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America, initiated the construction of a national security state apparatus both domestically and internationally. Despite this, the global upsurge in wars of national liberation sparked revolutionary anti-colonial liberation struggles inside the US and its own direct colonies, such as the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense and other Black liberation organizations, the Brown Berets and other Chicano/Mexicano nationalists, the Puerto Rican independence struggle, the American Indian Movement and Asian-American resistance forces. Mass urban rebellions and militant anti-war resistance overwhelmed local police forces and required the use of the National Guard and regular army forces inside US cities.

In response, the US launched COINTELPRO – a domestic war strategy for counter-insurgency that incorporated local police with the FBI in concerted military and psychological operations (psyops) against the Panthers and others. This was matched by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), which began the process of transferring military technology and operational principles to local cops under federal supervision. The success of those efforts at assassination, incarceration and destabilization of revolutionary organizers led to the on-going current mass incarceration known as the "prison-industrial complex" as a means of social control. As the MLN explained in "Disarm the Police or Arm the People," the Trilateral Commission identified an "excess of democracy" and the unacceptable demands of communities of color as the main threat to the Empire. Samuel Huntington, a chief theoretician of the Trilateral, prescribed "spatial deconcentration" to alleviate the threat of rebellion by the "inner city" by dispersing residents to the outskirts (as they are in Latin American, African and Asian cities). That approach is known more commonly as ethnic cleansing; more euphemistically as gentrification. Police carry out this strategy as an occupying army in communities of color and an internal border patrol in more privileged areas. When COINTELPRO killed and framed up Panthers like Bunchy Carter and Geronimo ji Jaga, prisons held fewer than 200,000 – today, over 2,200,000.

This is the social and historical context for the ongoing plague of racial profiling, police killings, militarization of 'law enforcement,' and mass criminalization and incarceration that is exemplified in the killing of Oscar Grant. It is vital to establish this context because despite decades of struggles for justice for particular victims and their families, despite lawsuits, civilian review boards, marches and street protests, this plague continues. That means we must understand more deeply the causes of the problem and the nature of the inadequacies of our existing strategies and tactics.

The roots of the problem in colonialism and capitalism mean that only revolutionary principles can guide us to a successful counter-strategy. It establishes a certain minimum tactical unity for effective action in any particular case and a direction for building strategically long term. First, we must understand that the problem is not simply 'police misconduct,' but the conduct of policing under policies set by civilian administrations and political authorities to enforce colonial and capitalist exploitation. "Good cops" and "bad cops" are simply roles played (often alternately by the same cops) to intimidate and control suspects. Community-oriented policing, far from being a solution, is in fact part of the same militarization, described by its advocates in police journals as "the domestic equivalent of psychological operations in the military, to control the thinking of the population and the enemy."

Second, while demanding effective prosecution of killer cops and financial penalties for abusive and brutal cops, we must recognize that the criminal and civil courts have always been part of the problem. They rely on police "testilying" in their day to day operations, and serve to let both the individual cops and the system behind them off the hook. Cities count multi-million dollar settlements for police killings and abuse as the cost of doing business. Only concerted and unrelenting mass action and resistance can wring occasional victories and concessions from the prosecutors and judges, as the Oakland uprising forced the D.A. to file charges against Mehserle.

Third, we must take direct action on two fronts simultaneously. We need to organize the community to defend and protect itself against parasitism, domestic abuse and other ills that the police falsely claim to deal with, and to organize the community to defend and protect itself against police violence and abuse of power. Projects such as the Watch-a-Pig program of the Black Riders Liberation Party, and the various CopWatch projects that help the community lose their fear of the police, point the way. But they must be combined with resistance to gentrification, with gang peace truce efforts that engage youth in constructive social uplift and community building, with opposition to gang injunctions that criminalize the simple association of youth of color. The prison abolition movement must connect up with the opponents of police abuse.

On the basis of self-determination and respect for sovereignty, we must build intercommunal solidarity and resistance. People of European descent have a particular responsibility to take up that struggle, recognizing the leading role of colonized communities. But all oppressed people must come together whenever anyone is violated by the cops, regardless of nationality or ethnicity. The link must be made between the militarization of local police forces and of the border with the larger military focus of the Empire globally, and the use of coercive power to maintain domination and economic exploitation of land, labor and resources.

Finally, we must recognize that power concedes nothing without a struggle. The long and debilitating string of failures that have created a crippling sense of defeatism among many oppressed and colonized people inside the US dates from the defeats inflicted by COINTELPRO and the resulting on-going absence of any fighting capacity on the people's side of the ledger. All our actions in confronting police abuse and other social, economic and even environmental ills, must be oriented at rebuilding the fighting capacity of the people..

The persistence of police abuse means it is systemic, and the whole society must be changed. We must strengthen our resistance and our resolve to see the struggle through to the final overthrow of a criminal, destructive system and its replacement with a cooperative, sustainable, decolonized social system. This will initiate a dynamic process that will begin to shift the balance of power between the forces of repression arrayed against us and the force of resistance, solidarity, unity and creativity that we marshal.

Based on these perspectives, ARA-LA is participating in the struggle for justice for Oscar Grant, whose killer will be tried right here in L.A. Such an effort must include defending those facing repression for resisting police abuse, such as JR Varney, Minster of Information of the Prisoners of Conscience Committee (POCC), who is still facing felony charges in Oakland for demanding justice for Oscar Grant. The ARA Network internationally has made organizing against police abuse, for justice for Oscar Grant and support for righteous resisters one of its top priorities for the year.

We must use the process of educating potential jurors here in L.A. about what is at stake in this case, and why Mehserle must be held accountable, as a means to a deeper, more committed organizing effort centered on alliance building and sinking roots into communities of resistance. Further court dates for Mehserle will be set following the initial January 8 appearance, and we must pack the courtroom (as well as for cases of political repression, where the people's freedom fighters are facing charges).

To comment on this perspective or to join in the efforts, contact Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART) at **310-495-0299** or by email at **anti-racistaction_la@yahoo.com**. You can also check out the ***Stop Police Abuse Now!*** email list we moderate, with searchable archives of over a decade of cases of police killings, brutality and corruption and the fight-back against them. The list is available as a resource for sharing strategies and analyses as well: **http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stop-polabuse** to subscribe or check the archives.

Obama: Post-Imperial President?

[column written 12/24/09] © '09 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

According to a think-piece in a recent edition of *Newsweek*, President Barack H. Obama is a "post-imperial" leader, who seeks to bring 'balance' to foreign affairs, and a kind of disciplined realism to interactions with other nations. Of the similarities between the dreaded example of Vietnam and Afghanistan, [Obama claims] the analogy fails because unlike the fateful Diem brothers, Afghan leader Hamid Karzai was 'elected' and has significant support.

The [alleged failure of the] analogy is about as weak as wet toilet tissue.

To say Karzai was elected is to do extreme violence to the term. A recent piece in the *Washington Post* describes the Taliban as a virtual "shadow government" throughout much of the country, with dual governors, police chiefs, tax staffs and village governments.

Indeed, the *Post* reports Taliban control covers "broad swaths of the country, especially Afghanistan's vast rural areas." That's because in many of these districts, the U.S. supported Karzai regime has no presence.

Back to the point -- a corrupt, foreign - supported government, which is widely seen as a puppet regime. Sound familiar?

Do we have another Vietnam?

Perhaps. The imperial press dutifully followed Pentagon and White House reports, painting Vietnam in rosy colors until the walls came tumbling down. They almost universally praised the Afghanistan and Iraq wars as righteous retribution. Why should they stop now?

As for 'post-imperial', this is a label that is about as ridiculous as post-racial! To invade countries that did nothing to it; to bomb and kill tens of thousands, to occupy and install puppets sounds pretty imperial to me.

And to add over 30,000 troops to this process means more of the same.

Is this 'post-imperial?'

Hardly.

[Sources:
Zakaria, Fareed, "The Post-Imperial Presidency", Newsweek, (12/14/09), pp. 36-40;
Witte, Griff, "The Shadow Government's Clout: In Afghanistan, Taliban officials offer a concrete alternative:, Washington Post, [Nat'l Wkly. Ed.], Dec.14-20, 2009, p.18]

Of Black Panthers, Prisons, and a Life in Struggle for Social Justice: Review of "The War Before"

By Dan Berger

Mention the Black Panthers, and Safiya Bukhari is probably not the first person most would think of. Yet perhaps she should be. Bukhari was a dedicated and tireless organizer from the time she joined the Black Panthers in the late 1960s until she passed away in 2003. Thanks to Laura Whitehorn, a former member of the Weather Underground and now a journalist, new generations of activists and others can learn of Bukhari through the essays, interviews and speeches Whitehorn has gathered in "The War Before: The True Life Story of Becoming a Black Panther, Keeping the Faith in Prison, & Fighting for Those Left Behind" (The Feminist Press, February 2010). The book also features an introduction by Angela Davis and an afterword by Mumia Abu-Jamal, each powerful statements in honor of Safiya's lifelong commitments against mass incarceration and political repression.

Bukhari was not a "writer" per se, but a tireless grassroots organizer who occasionally wrote along the way. She joined the New York Black Panthers out of respect for the work it was doing feeding children in black communities and standing up to police violence. When state repression and internal strife debilitated the organization, Bukhari went underground with the Black Liberation Army. She served eight years in prison, escaping once for several months and using the subsequent trial as a platform from which to protest the medical neglect at the prison. Later in life, she was a leader in the black nationalist group the Republic of New Afrika. But above all, Bukhari was a stalwart organizer for political prisoners. She was a founder and leader of The Jericho Movement and of the NYC Free Mumia Coalition. Her unending commitment was legendary; Whitehorn describes how Bukhari consistently wrote, visited, and agitated on behalf of those people who found themselves imprisoned for their activism from the 1960s and 1970s. Whitehorn writes how she, too, met Safiya while in prison in the 1980s, knowing from that first meeting that she had made a lifelong friend. Bukhari's unwavering dedication to freeing political prisoners, which she lived until her death at 53, raises the question of whether she worked too hard without taking care of her own health enough. Her daughter, Wonda Jones, describes seeing her mother's tireless organizing, and how she went from resenting to respecting and admiring her mother's efforts.

As the essays in this book eloquently reveal, she gave all of herself to the movement to free political prisoners. She was especially committed to her fellow Panthers, who have received the longest sentences and have faced the stiffest opposition to their release. She watched too many people die--from police violence, white racism (one of her BLA comrades was stomped to death in front of her by store owners in Virginia), intra-movement conflict, and imprisonment--to give anything less.

Safiya, as the book so perfectly captures, was an organizer, not a martyr. The book is a wonderful expression of all of these aspects of Safiya. It is, above all, a deeply human book. With passion and humility, Safiya was self-critical of how the movement's weaknesses enabled state repression to tear the movement apart. She routinely challenged the ways radicals perpetuated such violence, rejecting self-righteousness or posturing while remaining focused on the greater violence carried out by the government. She asked that social justice movements get smarter and more compassionate in their efforts. In this book, as she did in life, she eloquently describes how the movement needed to overcome the post-traumatic stress disorder that was the legacy of the internal and external violence that befell the Panthers and other revolutionary movements. In capturing the arc of her life's work, this book is a manual for long-haul radical struggle.

"The War Before" deserves a wide audience--by activists and academics, history buffs and political neophytes. It is a fantastic contribution to the burgeoning history of the Black Panthers, all too rare in its grassroots spirit and emphasis on (re)building movements strong enough not just to withstand state violence but to overcome our own egotism and individualism. It is one of few books by a woman member of the Black Panthers, and we see her trajectory from community service provider to revolutionary organizer, along with the many steps in between. Following Bukhari's path enables us to tease out the legacy of the Black Panthers, from organizing inside America's ever-growing prison system to the myriad battles for racial and economic justice in the twenty-first century. Her writings are both passionate and practical in their emphasis on movement building and freedom for those behind bars. To top it off, the stunning introduction by anti-racist activist and former political prisoner Laura Whitehorn brought tears to my eyes, weaving together her own story with Safiya's in a model example of Amilcar Cabral's dictum, "tell no lies, claim no easy victories." Such expressions of honesty and humility are perhaps the greatest legacy that Bukhari, in her life and through this book, left us. **Author's Website: www.danberger.org**

Save the date in the SF Bay Area for an event with Laura Whitehorn - March 11.

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK
FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) **WE GO WHERE THEY GO:** Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) **WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US:** This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) **NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS:** In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) **We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom.** ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a free classless society.

WE INTEND TO WIN!

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There are also not-yet or just-recently affiliated chapters in Minneapolis, Montreal, South and North Chicago, Nashville, Knoxville, Phoenix, Calgary, and elsewhere around the US and Canada.

If you are in a currently unaffiliated chapter of ARA, we urge you to endorse the Four Points of Unity and contact the chapter nearest you to develop a vouched face-to-face relationship.

Check out the Mid-Atlantic Anti-fascist connection's "On The Prowl News" at: **ontheprowlnews.wordpress.com**

Subscribe to the new monthly ARA E-news by clicking the button on the network website at **http://antiracistaction.org/?page=enews**
Please send us your intel and scene reports on racist and anti-racist activity in your area. Post to the list (your posts will not be distributed to the general readership) or email **aranetnews@gmail.com**

Editors Note: The Black Riders Liberation Party (BRLP) is a decade-old revolutionary-minded political formation based primarily in the Los Angeles area and composed primarily of youth who were or could have been members of the Crips and Bloods. They sponsor political education, martial arts training, the Watch-a-Pig program and other survival programs in the African community, and espouse revolutionary African inter-communalism. Although ARA-LA/PART has struggles with a vanguard approach and democratic centralism, we believe the BRLP is an important component of the Black liberation struggle, and have worked to build material and political solidarity with them. The BRLP has been a leading force among Black youth in struggling to free political prisoners, building Black-Brown unity, opposing police abuse, and transforming criminal, tribal and colonial mentality among Black youth into revolutionary consciousness. At their request, we are reprinting in TTT several pieces from their ***Black Rider*** newspaper.—*Ed.*

THE BLACK RIDER CONNECTION

by the Black Riders Liberation Party

On a hot summer day in South Central Los Angeles, the news reports interrupt the normally scheduled program with an emergency flash across the TV screen. The notorious trigger-happy L.A.P.D has just gunned down another defenseless Black Child in the heart of the ghetto for nothing other than the officers falsely assumed that the supposed suspect had a gun. The extremely over-trained officers, well equipped with numerous lethal and 'less-lethal' high-powered weapons, have once again crossed the line and chosen to use deadly force against another Black civilian for being armed with a mere black cell phone. More information will be given during the News at eleven o'clock tonight....

The TV screen is immediately turned off. A highly secret organized system of communication begins. All across Southern California, formerly hostile young Black Men and Women from the lumpen proletariat warrior class brief to the unfortunate tragic incident. This so-called justifiable homicide is not justified to them. The war drums beat louder and louder in their hearts as the information is passed around and down the rigid chain of command. The unification that binds them together is a bulletproof Black Love forged and steeled from an extreme knowledge of their African history and the savage white racist, capitalist oppression of over four hundred years. Outwardly they appear to be the average Black youth, a part of the Hip-Hop generation, until put under close examination and you notice the military discipline in their every movement. Only when they shed the large triple X T-shirts and over sized baggy sagging pants into Black berets, leather jackets, camouflage pants and big Black boots, will anyone really notice the last true armed Black Revolutionary organization in existence. This extraordinary transformation in their appearance will take place when the coded messages reach the bottom of the rank and file membership and flow back up to the top of the Democratic Centralized structure. These soldiers that embody the undying loyalty to the New Black Liberation struggle emerge out of the cars, homes, low-income projects and off of numerous street corners, clubs, and college campuses. All of them are hard-faced, tough, and love their people!

This display of both strength and unity among former gang banging young Blacks puzzles and shocks most people, especially the racist barbarian police in Los Angeles. This is something new, amazing, and powerful. They had a long history of dealing with Blacks, and nothing was better known than the disunity, misguided rage, and the animosity of one group toward another. How was this spectacle of over fifty different tribal groups forming solid disciplined lines of unity under a Black leader to be explained? All this is seen as a very real threat to the fascist Amerikkkan state. This massive Black unity will inspire massive Black Power, which, of course, will reduce white power and its domination of the whole earth. These formerly dis-unified individuals are now unified under my generalism leadership, and we have opened a full-scale war against the evil forces of oppression, aiming at driving them out of every Black community in the U.S. The successful Black Panther military tactics of Huey P. Newton and the great General George Jackson are remembered and followed: careful, unrushed training, and political organization; the secret movement of troops in small groups in different directions, all assembling in masses at a stated time and place near enemy pig station strongholds; then the swift-moving and generally surprise attacks by different people on different centers of white supremacy. These operations took years of tedious and dangerous organizing in every hostile tribal area to build. The real reason for the series of victories over the racist enemy is our extensive knowledge of revolutions on the planet, and our battle tested make up from growing up in the Neo-Colonial "Concrete Vietnam" of the Los Angeles gangland. We are now reaching out to other young Black Africans throughout the world because we realize that L.A. is not the only Black community that has been ravaged by the government created Black on Black violent crime. The fascist state smuggled drugs and guns into our communities to keep us fighting each other instead of attacking them during the late 1960's and early 1970's. These were just some of the weapons and tactics used to destroy the old Black liberation movement.

We have begun to change the Black on Black violent criminal mentality into a Black Revolutionary mentality. The so-called Lost Generation X is now beginning to morph into Generation Malcolm X!

Members of the Black Riders Liberation Party (General T.A.C.O., center) with Chairman Fred Hampton Jr. of POCC.

"Black Riders' Number One Rule"

Out of frustration and hopelessness, the Black Riders Liberation Party was formed by young Black people who have reached the point of no return. We refuse to be manipulated by the racist U.S. government and its ruling elite any longer into set tripping over blue or red. We no longer endorse patience and turning the other cheek. We assert the right of self-defense by whatever means necessary, and reserve the right of maximum retaliation against our racist oppressors, no matter what the odds against us are.

From here on in, if we must die anyway, we will die fighting back and will not die alone! We intend to see that our racist oppressors also get a taste of death! We will protect the Black Community with our minds, body, and soul.

All Power to the People!

Join in the fight for Justice for Oscar Grant, viciously killed by the pigs!

We are looking for a few good Black men and women to join now!

Contact us:
Black Riders Liberation Party (BRLP),
PO Box 8297, Los Angeles CA 90008;
323-901-3834
Email: blackriderliberationparty@yahoo.com;
online: www.myspace.com/BlackRiderLiberationParty
Join the Black Riders every Saturday on www.KillRadio.org,
Saturday nights from 9:00 to Midnight.

Open Letter to KPFK Management and Local Station Board on New Programming Schedule

We, the undersigned, strongly oppose the new programming schedule ("grid") adopted by management without listener input. We urge that it swiftly be replaced by a grid adopted after broad consultation with listeners about how air-time on KPFK can best be used to fulfill the Pacifica mission and meet the communities' needs.
The new grid reflects an ongoing effort to sanitize the airwaves, silence voices of dissent outside the Democratic Party, and marginalize or eliminate grassroots community voices. It could only be imposed in the undemocratic way that it was, without engaging listeners, staff and stakeholders in an informed discussion about the station's future.

The grid is expressly based on financial considerations and driven by Arbitron ratings, even though Arbitron is widely understood to misrepresent audiences, especially by under-counting young people and poor people, particularly people of color. The grid favors so-called "strip programming," in which a single gate-keeping host controls a block of air-time throughout the week.

To carve out that time, management has dropped shows and cut others to 30 minutes, rescheduling them and others at hours unfamiliar to their audiences, and when talk-radio audiences are small.

Intentional or not, the effect of this kind of rescheduling will reduce the listeners of these shows, increasing the likelihood of their ultimate elimination. These changes in programming correspond to other undemocratic changes in management and governance, including illegal "suspensions" of elected board members and efforts to pre-ordain the outcome of searches for new management.

These changes cannot be allowed to stand, because they will doom KPFK to irrelevance at best, exactly at the moment when economic, political, social and environmental crises cry out for a medium of communication open to the struggles and resistance of popular movements. The forces seeking to neuter KPFK as a voice of community activism, cultural and ethnic diversity, and incisive dissent have already driven away more than 10,000 listeners in the past 4 years. The new grid and other purges could destroy the station entirely.

Please sign and circulate this petition and send in signatures to: **grassrootskpfk@gmail.com**
Thanks! Check us out on-line at **www.takebackkpfk.org.**
Anyone who wants to can sign their own name and make a comment here:
http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/KPFK_Programming_Changes/

THE GRASSROOTS KFPK COALITION PRESENTS: A TEACH-IN ON THE ECONOMY

Come learn about the roots of the world's economic crisis,
who profits from it, and who are its victims.
Learn about the fight back against foreclosures, evictions, unemployment,
mis-education, and the plight of the immigrants and trade unions.

Learn how to stretch your dollars, grow your own food in the city, and
develop community survival programs.

Saturday, January 23, 2010
at the Service Employees International Union hall
500 S. Virgil, Los Angeles 90020

JOIN THE BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISRAEL

By BDS-LA

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) movement to challenge Israeli apartheid is gaining momentum throughout the world. BDS is a non-violent form of resistance, which played an instrumental role against South African apartheid in the 1980's. It's simple: as long as Israel continues to violate human rights, no city, state, country, or company should invest in or support it. This international non-violent human rights campaign initiated by all sectors of Palestinian society has three fundamental demands:

"We, representatives of Palestinian civil society, call upon … people of conscience all over the world to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era. We appeal to you to pressure your respective states to impose … sanctions against Israel. We also invite conscientious Israelis to support this Call, for the sake of justice and genuine peace. These non-violent …measures should be maintained until Israel meets its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and …complies with …international law by:
"1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall;
"2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and
"3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194."

The U.S. gives it $3 billion in military aid per year and billions more in indirect economic aid. Those of us in the U.S. have a particular responsibility to do our part in advancing the BDS movement. In 2008, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mekorot, the Israeli National Water Company. Among other things, the MOU provides Israeli companies with access to DWP facilities for pilot projects, and forsees installation of Israeli technology in DWP facilities. Via this agreement, L.A. and its institutions legitimize, finance, and profit from Israel's 60 year history of resource theft, and identifies L.A. as a "partner" of Israel. Join us in saying "no" to Los Angeles support of Israeli apartheid. Tell the Mayor and DWP: "No business with apartheid states." Help build a grassroots anti-Apartheid movement in Los Angeles! Take part in the campaign to end Apartheid. Again.

For information, Email: bdsinla@gmail.com or on-line at www.bds-la.org/

Excerpts from the 10.27.09 REPORT BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL:

ISRAEL RATIONS PALESTINIANS TO TRICKLE OF WATER

"Amnesty International has accused Israel of denying Palestinians the right to access adequate water by maintaining total control over the shared water resources and pursuing discriminatory policies. These unreasonably restrict the availability of water in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and prevent the Palestinians from developing an effective water infrastructure there.

"Israel allows the Palestinians access to only a fraction of the shared water resources, which lie mostly in the occupied West Bank, while the unlawful Israeli settlements there receive virtually unlimited supplies. In Gaza the Israeli blockade has made an already dire situation worse," said Donatella Rovera, Amnesty International's researcher on Israel and the OPT. In a new extensive report, Amnesty International revealed how Israel's water policies and practices are denying Palestinians their right to water. Israel uses more than 80% of the water from the Mountain Aquifer, the main source of underground water in Israel and the OPT, while restricting Palestinians to a mere 20%. The Mountain Aquifer is the only source for water for Palestinians in the West Bank, but only one of several for Israel, which also takes for itself all the water available from the Jordan River. While Palestinian daily water consumption barely reaches 70 liters a day per person, Israeli daily consumption is more than 300 liters per day, four times as much. In some rural communities, Palestinians survive on barely 20 liters per day, the minimum amount required for domestic use in emergency situations. Some 180-200,000 Palestinians living in rural communities have no access to running water and the Israeli army often prevents them from even collecting rainwater. Numbering 450,000, the settlers use as much or more water than the Palestinian population of some 2.3 million. In the Gaza Strip, 90 to 95 per cent of the water from its only water resource, the Coastal Aquifer, is contaminated and unfit for human consumption. Yet, Israel doesn't allow the transfer of water from the Mountain Aquifer in the West Bank to Gaza. Stringent restrictions imposed in recent years by Israel on the entry into Gaza of material and equipment necessary for the development and repair of infrastructure have caused further deterioration of the water and sanitation in Gaza, which has reached crisis point."

Come hear Joshua Rubinstein of Amnesty International speak on the theme of **Troubled Waters: Israeli Denial of Water to Palestinian**s
Sunday, January 10, 2010 from 3-5:00 PM at an event sponsored by BDS-LA, endorsed by Los Angeles Jews for Peace and Women In Black L.A.

Beyond Identity Politics

TTT editor Michael Novick has recently begun doing a series of monthly commentaries on "Freedom Now," hosted by Dedon Kamathi of the All-African People's Revolutionary Party on Pacifica radio's KPFK-FM (90.7 in Los Angeles, 98.7 in Santa Barbara; online at KPFK.org) Tuesdays at 8:00 PM PST. Here is the edited text of December's commentary.

In response to the revolutionary struggles of the 60s and 70s, a counter-revolutionary critique emerged within the left. It raised two dismissive slogans - "politically correct" and "identity politics" - to oppose self-critical struggle raised against racism and sexism within the left. People struggling for awareness of the dangers of national, racial and sexual chauvinism were attacked as being so-called "PC language police." Struggles for self-determination and sovereignty by colonized people were put down as "identity politics" that created unnecessary division among supposed progressives.

The reactionary nature of those put-downs have been demonstrated as they were taken up as rallying cries by the establishment right and even racist forces. The first President Bush made "politically correct" a slogan in national politics, putting down student activists and sympathetic members of college faculty, as he launched a campaign to purge the left from the academy. And to this day, the Limbaughs and Glenn Becks, bombastic media racists who seem to have taken control of the Republican Party, dismiss struggles by African or indigenous people and opposition to anti-immigrant or anti-Mexican hysteria as "identity politics" or "the race card."

The reduction of revolutionary anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist initiatives to language games or so-called "identity politics" is a manifestation of inadequate attempts by people of European descent to distance ourselves from the Empire and model ourselves on the liberation struggles of colonized people. In response to the Black liberation struggle, the Puerto Rican independence movement, the American Indian Movement for Native sovereignty, and the Chicano-Mexicano liberation movement, European-descent radicals started using the same terminology, such as women's liberation, gay liberation, and later earth and animal liberation.

On the one hand, this impulse was a positive one - a movement towards resistance to the Empire. But it sidestepped the need for a self-critical examination of identification with the oppressor among people of European descent. It also undercut the anti-colonial nature of the struggles among oppressed people, reducing it to a question of personal identity and cultural differentiation. So this impulse to call all movements "liberation movements" took on a negative aspect. It liquidated the national and anti-colonial content of African, Asian and indigenous struggles.

It's not merely a question of "identity" - and certainly not racial identity. It 's a question of identification with the oppressed and exploited rather than with the oppressor and exploiter. This is not a static matter determined by skin color, gender, sexual orientation, or economic status. It is a matter of dynamic struggle against the Empire, against capitalism and the class system, and for international solidarity.

Identities are created through economic and political struggle, class struggle. The so-called white identity or white nationalism in the US, for example, was created by liquidating the pre-existing national identities and class consciousness of working people of European descent. The Irish, Italians, Poles, Swedes and Bohemians, even the eastern European Jews and Slavs, were made "white" by obliterating their true histories and cultures. Those were replaced by an identification with the imperialist project of settler colonialism, the white supremacist doctrine of manifest destiny, land theft and genocide, and with the wages of whiteness created by an economic system built on the racial chattel slavery of Africans.

We must reject this not by creating a new cultural variant of white identity that is somehow "anti-racist," but by deepening our understanding of our true histories, our recognition of class contradiction and class struggle as splitting issues among so-called 'white' people, and by strengthening our identification with all who resist colonialism, imperialism and capitalism.

Trying to appropriate Black or Native cultural identity, as many white folks uncomfortable with whiteness try to do, only worsens divisions. Instead, we need to question the cultural appropriation involved in the propaganda for us to identify with the Pilgrims. Conscious and conscientious people of European descent need to identify with Native resistors, with John Brown, who at Harper's Ferry 150 years ago launched, with Black and white allies, an armed struggle against slavery, with Fred Hampton, a Black revolutionary who was assassinated for inspiring a revolutionary rainbow coalition 40 years ago, with the LA Panthers who learned from his murder to defend themselves against the LAPD. The way to cement that identification is by fighting back against the Empire. Allies, white or otherwise, are those who fight alongside each other against a common enemy and for a common purpose: to free us all.

Excerpts from:

Some Recent Actions of the Imaginary Party

Full text at: ontheprowlnews.wordpress.com (*Ed. note:* We are printing this to stimulate discussion, particularly regarding elements of negativism, nihilism and individualism expressed. Respond to *TTT* and on the blogsite.)

"The Imaginary Party is the party that tends to become real, incessantly."

On January 29, 2009, someone shot a laser beam at an airplane. It happened in a town called Burien, just north of the Sea-Tac International Airport. Twelve planes reported being hit with a beam of green light during their takeoff and landings. Police immediately began to look for perpetrators but were unable to find any suspects. After the initial burst of activity, there was a brief pause. But it continued to happen at random over the next month. In March 2009, police arrested Christopher C. Saunders for allegedly shining a green laser at a plane. The owners of a horse that Saunders had been shining a laser at during a party called and informed the police about his behavior. His bail was set at $100,000. He was charged and held on suspicion of unlawful discharge of a laser. When questioned by police, Saunders told them he was at a party and was shining a green laser in multiple directions, including the neighbor's horse. He told them there was a chance he may have 'lasered' an airplane by accident. Christopher Saunders was 24 at the time of his arrest. It's easy to imagine the party in question. Everyone is 19-26 years of age and drunk. Most in the suburban house have jobs or are looking for one. None owns a house. They drink into the night as the planes fly overhead. Everyone surrounding Saunders watches him as he fires his laser. None know that in that moment, Christopher became a member of the unseen, invisible enemy of every system: the Imaginary Party.

"The adversary no longer carries the name enemy, but they are placed outside the law and outside of humanity for having disturbed the peace."

For a brief moment, the system thought it had found the culprit. The media began to construct a story about a petty criminal who had been in jail twice before the age of 20, dead. On October 8, 2009, a man walked into the Bank of America on the corner of 9th and A in downtown Tacoma. He carried a concealed pistol and a bag. He approached the teller and said he had a bomb that could be detonated by his partner outside. He gave the teller 10 minutes to fill a bag with cash. Another B of A employee called 911. When the man left with $73,000, he found himself surrounded by police pointing their guns at him. Police found harmless blasting caps in the bag he brought into the bank. The man did not give his name to authorities. When they tried to fingerprint him, they found he had super-glued his fingertips. He told the police he was Patrick Henry, who coined the phrase "Give Me Liberty Or Give Me Death." It took days for the authorities to learn his true identity.

His name is Michael Fenter. He is 40. The father of 3, he lived near Port Townsend at the Compass Rose Farm with his wife Kateen Fenter and her mother Bev. He graduated from the Northwest School Of Wooden Boatbuilding and worked at Sea Marine in Port Townsend. His wife says he is not much of a farmer, but his carpentry skills were put to use at the farm and the income from his job at Sea Marine kept the Compass Rose going. In January 2009, Fenter quit his job at Sea Marine and began working in Oregon. After the arrest of her husband, Kateen called his boss and confirmed that he had been coming in to work. When Michael was arrested, he was supposed to have been out of town, working at his job. Kateen first learned of his arrest when an FBI agent called her and said her husband had been arrested for bank robbery. The FBI accuse Michael Fenter of robbing a Seattle WaMu in Feb., a San Francisco B of A in Apr. and a Sacramento Wells Fargo in Aug. He is in the Sea-Tac Fed. Detention Ctr.

"There are moments one lives as if this world no longer existed. During these times, we see the despairing contractions of a world that knows it is to die."

On October 22, 2009, a man walked through a parking lot near the city auto yards in Seattle. Some workers alarmed by his presence decided to approach. As they began to speak, an explosion happened. As the flames erupted, the man sprinted away. Shortly after, there were more explosions. Later, authorities were to find an American flag at the scene, along with a note condemning the police and alluding to future attacks. This took place on the national day against police brutality. The Seattle PD kept the warning of future attacks a secret, even from its own officers. On Halloween, a white car drifted down the streets of the Central District aimlessly, the driver looking for something. Up ahead, the driver spotted a police cruiser that was pulled over, its light flashing. The car pulled up alongside the cruiser. A muzzle flash lit up the white car. One cop died and the white car sped away, leaving behind an American flag. The police and mainstream-media immediately classified the murder as an assassination. What information was available was televised across the entire region. Details emerged about the note left at the scene of the car arson. A manhunt began for the assassin. The description of a white car was made public and the mainstream-media were filled with lamentations over the dead 'hero.'

Christopher Saunders of Burien, 24. The system was ready to turn him into an example of what would happen to others. But after holding him for 3 days, the police released Saunders due to lack of concrete evidence. Despite the arrest and release of Saunders, the lasers continued to hit airplanes. When Saunders was exonerated, the system was left with nothing but an invisible enemy shooting lasers into the sky. To this day, no one has been arrested and no planes have crashed. During the initial hysteria, the authorities stated that anyone shooting a laser at a plane would be charged as a terrorist. If anyone were caught, it'd be up to them to prove they weren't terrorists. The neighborhoods around Sea-Tac International Airport are vast expanses of boredom. There's little to do besides go from house to job, job to store, store to house, house to bar, bar to house. A 16-year-old boy and girl consumed with boredom and possessing a laser-pen might look up and see the familiar airplanes flying above. It would only be a matter of time before they decided to use their lasers, especially on the planes, which never stop arriving and departing. To the teenagers, this is a playful act. To the system, it's an act of war. The war we see everyday is between two forces. One is real, with its own police, media and army. The other is imaginary and nonexistent, composed of individuals who don't know they're part of it. The Imaginary Party does not exist. And yet it continues to act.

"Those who do not understand war do not understand their own times."

Downtown Tacoma is perched atop a hill overlooking the water. Its skyscrapers hang over the Port of Tacoma and the Northwest Detention Center for illegal immigrants. On weekdays, during lunch and after 5 pm, Downtown is bustling with activity. But in the late hours and on the weekends, there's hardly any activity. The streets are lifeless and

"It is a constant temptation to conceive the existence of the Imaginary Party under the familiar species of the guerrilla, of civil war, of a conflict without a precise front or a declaration of hostilities, without armistice or peace treaty."

The same day, in Tukwila just south of Seattle, three cops approached an apartment complex. They were responding to a tip that a white Datsun had been parked in front of the complex and had recently been covered in a tarp. The tip also revealed that the owner of the car had been acting strangely. The cops waited to ambush the owner of the car. When he appeared, they approached. He immediately fled, stopped and pointed a handgun at them. When he pulled the trigger, there was no discharge. The man continued running and was soon shot, one of the bullets passing through his mouth. He did not die, but is now paralyzed from the waist down. His name is Christopher Monfort. He's 41. He most recently worked as a security guard. His boss said that he had been a diligent worker. Christopher had attended community college just south of the airport. When he began, he had aspirations of being a police officer. He enrolled in the Administration of Justice program and later went on to get his BA at UW in March 2008. While there, he began working on a program to encourage jurors to find black defendants not guilty for any non-violent crimes. He later worked with incarcerated youth at juvenile hall, teaching them about the criminal justice system and encouraging them to remain outside it. Everyone who knew Christopher described him as outgoing and deeply concerned with the erosion of citizen's liberties. Police searched his apartment. They found the walls lined with stacks of tires, as if he'd been expecting a shootout. Two rifles and several bombs were also inside, leading authorities to believe that, had Christopher not been discovered, he would have struck more targets.

When the full text of the note he left at the scene of the car bombings was released, the public discovered that Christopher began his actions in response to the beating of a 14 year-old girl in the Sea-Tac jail by a King County Sheriff named Pail Schene, while Dep. Travis Bruner watched, doing nothing to stop his partner. The beating had been caught on security camera and then released to the public several months after the fact. The sheriff who beat her was fired, the other was punished but remained with the King County Sheriff. The note that Monfort left near the bombed vehicles reads: "These Deaths are dedicated to Deputy Travis Bruner, he stood by and did nothing, as Deputy Paul Schene Brutally beat an Unarmed 14 year old Girl in their care. You Swear a Solemn Oath to Protect US from All Harm, That includes You! Start policing each other or get ready to attend a lot of police funerals. We Pay your bills. You work for US."

"It is that which each day makes more visible the failures of society. But one keeps from pronouncing its name…as one fears to invoke the devil."

A mile south of Tacoma, near the northern edge of Fort Lewis, is the McChord Air Force Base. Every day, military planes take off and arrive in an endless circle. Across the street from the base is the Forza coffee shop, a regular haunt of cops from Tacoma and Lakewood. They arrive in groups, order coffee and browse the web during their breaks. On November 29, four Lakewood police officers entered the Forza and ordered coffee. They sat down at a table together and began working on their laptops. A man in jeans and a black jacket walked into the Forza. He walked past the cops and waited in line for coffee. When he reached the register, he opened his jacket, revealing a gun. The baristas ran away as he turned and opened fire. He killed two cops immediately. The two remaining cops stood up. He shot one of them while the other drew their weapon. The assassin and the last remaining cop struggled, pushing and wrestling each other until they were outside the coffee shop. In the midst of the struggle, the assassin broke free from the cop's grip. The cop shot the assassin, the assassin shot the cop. The cop died. The assassin fled to the south with a bullet wound below his navel.

There is nothing connecting these incidents together. No one will be able to discover a secret code being passed between the actors in these incidents. There are no secret communiques or instructions from a central committee. But taken together, they reveal how only a select few actors are necessary to throw authority into a blind, helpless spasm. What is held in common between the actors described above is a potent disregard for everything. Shooting a laser at a plane meant nothing, nor did blowing up police cruisers or shooting cops. What once mattered stopped mattering to them. And in their acts of negation, their acts suddenly becoming positive. They robbed for their family and their farm. They ran to stay alive. They killed to avenge a 14-year-old girl. They shot lasers for fun. In their disregard, they joined the Imaginary Party.

The Imaginary Party can't be attacked by police, because it doesn't exist. It is made up of every actor who, intentionally or not, undermines authority at every level. When they are caught, actors in the Imaginary Party are made into isolated individuals, insane deviants who are to be quickly disposed of. Authority cannot admit the existence of the Imaginary Party for one reason: the Imaginary Party is just another word for the population. And the population is never allowed to be against authority. The media will acknowledge the absolute positivity of authority, never the silent negativity of the population. The countless, unseen people who die among the population do not have front page funerals. Only that which is sanctified and approved by authority is given the title of 'hero' and remembered as such. Everything else is left to obscurity and isolation.

There has always been a constant level of activity from the Imaginary Party, but recent events indicate that something has altered. The level of disregard in the actors is increasing, just as the fear in the guardians of order is increasing. Everything is proving to be fragile and easily thrown into disorder. This fragility is televised on the nightly news and printed on the front page of the newspaper. With each new incident, power reveals its desperation, weakness and fear. It knows that its worst enemy, the Imaginary Party, lives in its own body, growing like a translucent cancer.

-Olympia, WA December 4, 2009

All quotations are from the *Theses On The Imaginary Party* (1999) by Tiqqun. **http://zinelibrary.info/theses-imaginary-party**

Call to the Peoples of México to Organize the Revocation of the Presidency of Felipe Calderón
On the Eve of the 2010 Bicentennial of Mexican Independence, an Organizing Campaign Begins

http://www.narconews.com/Issue62/article3956.html

Our nation is confronting a crisis on par with those that gave birth to the War of Independence, The Reformation wars and the Mexican Revolution. Just as was the case then, this is an overarching crisis in our economy, politics and culture. It calls into question the future of the Mexican Nation and its people. In the political schemes of the great domestic and foreign capitalists, we lack hope. The Mexican people do not have a place in this world of neo-liberal globalization except as pariahs and a disposable labor force.

Given these circumstances, we need a patriotic transformation and democratization of the political system, the economy and the culture that can confront this deep crisis of our country and the problems of the Mexican people. We need a transformation that will push out the bourgeois oligarchy and the political class that governs the state and the imperialist domain of Mexico. There is a need to construct a new majority that includes all of the patriotic forces that will install a new government and a new state. A new majority that is capable of taking back control and ownership of the productive forces and strategic resources of the nation, and also able to guarantee sustainable development, social justice, national sovereignty, autonomy of the indigenous peoples, and the practice of popular democracy.

The first step towards a national popular and democratic exit strategy is the current crisis. We have to see to restoring constitutional order through struggle against the usurpation of the government of the Republic by the group of politicians, business magnates, judges, and military officials who are behind Felipe Calderón. The de facto chief of the federal executive is the primary manifestation of a corrupt, anti-nation political regime, an instrument of big business and transnational corporations that advance the complete plunder of our work force, public property and national resources. Calderón is the most visible figure of the mafia that intends to consummate the installation of a State obedient to the United States and the delinquent characters of a Police State, in the manner of the Colombian military. The struggle against this usurper and the dominant group includes the defense of our basic rights, social, political and civil freedoms, and also laying the groundwork to remove this neo-liberal government who have betrayed the people and the motherland.

In less than three years the number of poor Mexicans has increased by 10 million. Today, more that 70 million people live in poverty; 24 or 25 million of these live in extreme poverty suffering degrading, inhuman misery. Calderón may want to be known as "The President of Employment," yet he has caused almost a million and half workers to lose their jobs. Calderón, who is supposedly in charge of the "War against insecurity and delinquency," has converted Mexico into the least secure and most violent country in the world in a time of peace. His war against narco-trafficking has left more that 15,000 people assassinated and more than 7000 disappeared. Neither the violence nor the kidnappings seem to be diminishing and much less ceasing. Meanwhile $25-40,000,000,000 are in the banks and the companies of this respectable private initiative with the approval of Calderón and Obama. Impunity reigns, and those responsible for the industrial crimes in the Pasta de Conchos mine disaster remain free along with Ulises Ruiz, Mario Marín, Javier Lozano and the real culprits of the case of the ABC daycare center. Not to mention the deaths in Juarez, or human rights violation in San Salvador Atenco, Acteal and more.

The president has deployed the armed forces throughout national territory in his mission of public security, in violation of article 129 of the Mexican Political constitution. He has consequently degraded the Armed Forces by transforming a military into an occupation army and a counter-insurgency force in service of the oligarchies. As his role of Supreme commander he has subordinated the Armed Forces and the police of the government of the United States, behind the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America and The Merida Initiative. These agreements gravely affect national sovereignty, and in essence are acts of treason against the motherland. They have brought about the collapse of the national economy, contraction of the internal market, growth of illegal internal and external debt and the destruction of industrial productivity, as well devastation of farmland and the end of self-sufficient farming. This has led to mass migration, affecting the quality of life for all sectors of the population. Moreover Calderón has illegally given territory to the mining, oil, agricultural and hotel interests, leading to environmental degradation against people and entire communities who have already been irreparably damaged.

In violation of article 123 of the Constitution, and in accord with the anti-labor politics of his predecessors, Calderon recently transgressed the autonomy of the Mexican Union of Electricians "Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas" (SME). The purpose of this unconstitutional act was to advance the destruction of our energy sovereignty and to impose privatization of electric energy and the services derived from the use of fiber optics. This required firing more than 44,000 workers, who have been characterized by their opposition to the governmental plans.

Does there exist any reasonable doubt about the regressive and reactionary nature of the current governing group? Could anyone hope for a redirection of the course of the country on part of the usurper and his people? In the days leading up to the commemoration of the Bicentennial of Mexican Independence and the Centennial of the Mexican Revolution, we are confronted with this extraordinary escalation of social and national crisis leading us on a downward slope of repressive measures and the gravest economic socio-environmental catastrophe in the history of the country. We must take a step forward and convene ourselves, just as Hidalgo, Morelos, Juárez, Magón, Villa, Zapata y Cárdenas did, and fight to revoke the mandate of the de facto president Felipe de Jesús Calderón Hinojosa. To discuss the ways and means we are organizing a first meeting for December 5 at the Railworkers Union hall at Calle Dr. Lucio #29, Colonia Doctores, Mexico City, to which all Mexican citizens ready to wage this battle are invited. In particular, we call upon the Movement in Defense of Popular Economy, Oil and Sovereignty, the Movement for Food and Energy Sovereignty, Workers' Rights and Democratic Freedoms, upon the National Resistance Popular Assembly, upon the Zapatista "Other Campaign" and upon the National Unity Conference of the Left to participate in the discussions and agreements so that once and for all Calderón and his government will be gone.

Respectfully,
More than 600 individual and organizational Signers from every part of Mexico
November 30, 2009

Excerpts from an Exclusive Interview with The Leadership of Los Macheteros

by Claridad www.claridadpuertorico.com December 16, 2009

Ten months have passed since the administration of Luis Fortuño and the PNP [New Progressives, pro-statehood] came to power. What analysis have you made of the situation?

The loss by Anibal Acevedo Vila, of the PPD [Popular Democratics, pro-Commonwealth] at the hands of Fortuño does not radically change the neoliberal policies of either party. Both speak of peace, justice, and social freedom. Both used demagoguery to come to power. Both awoke feelings of hope in the masses, when the reality is that it does not matter which party wins the elections, both parties respond to the interests of the US bourgeoisie and the local bourgeoisie, within whom are banks, developers, contractors, etc. Because Fortuño is a fervent servant of Republican capitalist neo-liberal policies, he has put in motion a strategy geared to shrink the government, privatize everything that interests lenders and capitalists, and eliminate everything that sustains the Puerto Rican nation and its culture. Our organization, Ejercito Popular Boricua – Macheteros, understands that since the swearing-in of the governor the situation has been disastrous, moving towards a privileged class at the detriment of the people.

What evaluation has been made concerning the main actions taken by Fortuño, his government, and the Legislature?

This colonial legislature is, to some degree, worse than its predecessors. It has not demonstrated the capacity to legislate with creativity and sensitivity. The only thing it has in mind is a desire to promote political and economic ideology, and for this they do not hesitate to sink the people into a situation of poverty. By the same token, we have seen how any opposition – including opposition party legislators, persons, or institutions - is humiliated, devalued, and crushed. The lack of a strong opposition makes legislators from the PPD accomplices of the violations by the majority party. They have approved legislation without considering the opinions of the union sector, environmentalists, communities, young people, political movements and the people in general. They designated an 'ex FBI employee' and murderer [as police chief], Jose Figueroa Sancha, whose main goal is confrontation.

What opinion does the organization have on the reaction of popular movementsto neoliberalism? How do you evaluate the role of the ndependence movement in such situations?

Independence-supporting organizations have failed during this entire situation, and haven't developed an offensive plan when faced with the current administration. This is the perfect time, as a united front, to send a clear and precise message to the people indicating that the situation won't be resolved by replacing Fortuño with [PNP pro-statehood Senate Speaker] Thomas Rivera Schatz, nor by replacing him with a candidate from the [pro-commonwealth/colony] PPD. Elections in Puerto Rico have always been manipulated and thus those elected do not represent the people; they represent the interests of the colonial power, the bankers and business. The Independence movement must stand in the front lines of each protest. Political cannibalism n the independence movement should be eradicated once and for all.

We, the clandestine organizations, are evaluating the current situation and are implementing unitary policies in order to support the people during the current situation. There is talk of a General Strike and we ask ourselves if as of today a tactical and strategic plan has been prepared to delineate all that has to be resolved before such a General Strike is called. This consists of the formation of a single chain of command, that is charged with replacing leadership in the case of arrests or assassinations, and that counts on the participation of all affected groups. (This chain of command should take all security precautions to prevent infiltration by informants). It would also require the coordination of communication over the entire island, and clear and precise definition of negotiable demands which do not favor one group over another. It must be clear that a General Strike cannot be conducted by only one group, like the union sector. Demands must include rejection of privatization, rehiring all workers including those of the private sector, and firing the Police Superintendent.

What is the current state of the struggle for Puerto Rico's Independence, given the processes shaping a progressive Latin American today?

How is it possible to talk about conversations and successes with those who have sustained and sustain the colony, when even amongst ourselves there is discord? How is it possible that after the assassination of the Secretary General of the Ejercito Popular Boricua Macheteros, Comandante Filiberto Ojeda Rios, reference is made about the call for unity that he made practically before his assassination, and today, each organization does its own thing without coming to unifying agreements geared toward conducting joint actions towards the achievement of a truly free and sovereign Republic? We can't solely depend on the international support of those countries who show us solidarity, if we do not demonstrate to these compañeros how far we are willing to go in order to achieve independence.

How is the organization? What role does it plan on playing in strengthening the independence movement and overall struggle?

Our organization has not changed its military-political vision of struggle, which was established by the compañero Comandante Filiberto Ojeda Rios and the leadership at that time. Our organization and its members have always had an elevated ideological conviction which is accompanied by a spirit of valor and sacrifice, as was demonstrated by our Secretary General Comandante Filiberto Ojeda Rios in the most glorious moment of his life, in sacrificing it for the homeland, for his people, in confronting the invading enemy, the assassins for hire. Within guerrilla movements there is the expectation that each guerrilla fighter dominate his weapon. Filiberto learned a long time ago how to dominate his. We expect all of us to do the same.

We plead for a peace, a convergence within the independence movement: a democratic and concrete peace; conversations within the framework of participatory democracy with the goal of achieving the free, sovereign, and democratic Republic. The unity of the Left has to be the principle nucleus of this convergence of forces that needs the participation, support, and direction of all of the strands within the progressive left. This should not be so difficult to achieve since we already have two examples of unity and participatory democracy: the unity in action between the Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores Puertorriqueños (Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers Party; PRTP) and our organization, the Ejercito Popular Boricua (Boricua Popular Army; EPB) and the unity that is witnessed during the activities organized the 23rd of every month that are hosted by the Coordinadora Nacional de la Vigilias por la Dignidad Filiberto Ojeda Rios (National Coordinator of the Vigils for the Dignity of Filiberto Ojeda Rios), which are organized by and attended by numerous sectors of the independence movement and the public at large.

What do you think about the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States?

The election of Barack Obama as President of the United States was not a surprise. The military-industrial complex that really runs that country needed a charismatic and apparently-liberal figure to replace Bush, who had upset the people and left the economy in ruins and risked the entire political-military imperialist system. That he is black does not mean that his ideas are very different from those of his white predecessors. The only way to reach the Presidency of the United States is to be in communion with the group-think of big business and the military, and to be willing to implement the policies of the empire. This empire has sacked the entire world and has manipulated, with its military might and propaganda, all of Latin America to the point that many of these countries surrendered their sovereignty. Like with all empires, changing in this regard will be very difficult. We do not see a radical change in the politics of Obama toward Latin America. On the contrary, judging from the situation in Honduras, the threats against the Bolivarian government of Venezuela, and the bases in Colombia, the interventionist policy and the support for coup détat have continued and will continue. With regards to Cuba, we don't see any movement that would indicate the removal of the blockade, which is what most of Latin American governments have requested.

Long Live our Secretary General, Comandante Filiberto Ojeda Rios!

Anti-fascist struggle in Latin America:

An Interview with RASH-Bogotá by RASH-Paris

from www.ecoledelarue.com; translation from the French by ARA-LA

Can we have a little history of RASH Bogotá?

RASH Bogotá: Briefly, RASH Bogotá is born in 1997, originally exclusively urban. Skins of the communist era are behind it; their goal was to create a strong and organized movement to propose political and counter-cultural solutions. Initially, we did not do much; we put out a fanzine called ***Red Zine***, we ran a bar called ***Bar-Red*** and we prowled the city in search of Nazis. We were 10 at maximum. To animate RASH, we worked with anarchist political organizations and Communists, we were involved in demonstrations and we often tangled with the cops. RASH succeeded the old *Resistencia Redskin* of Bogotá, which was dissolved. We had a lot of stories of fights, confusing variety, some of us spent little stay in prison, we formed a theater that was thought to be quite entertaining. One day, we got sick, and we have decided to build a strong disciplined organization, respected by the city for both its political/cultural activity and its direct actions.

Could you present your activity and define yourselves politically?

Currently we are working hard in our city and also internationally. Each time our finances allow us, we put out our fanzine ***Barricada Internacionalista***. We have already published three numbers and the fourth is expected soon. Our zine is called so because we are recalling the work of an early fanzine from RASH Paris, ***Barricata***. Throughout the year we do different counter-cultural and political initiatives and social activities. We organize festivals: Fuck The RAC Fest, RASH Fest, Rock Radical Rojo and "Para Todos Todo" (All for Everyone) Festival. These events greatly contributed to strengthening the anti-Fascist movement in Bogota. There were musical groups who were close to us, and RASH could present their proposals and policies in a cultural milieu. In addition, each year we realize the following campaigns: campaigns of Solidarity with Political Prisoners and with the peoples of the world, the anti-fascist march in Bogota, in April, and antifascist Red October. And we participate in numerous events organized throughout the year: industrial labor actions, to defend public education, for work, to counter Homophobia, racism, and discrimination, Steps for those displaced and exiled from our country, etc. Similarly, we work with the Anti-Fascist Coordination of Bogota, which we were in at the origin, which is currently doing very good work. We also attached to the work of BafS (Brigada antifascisat) from Bogota. We develop a social work and politics in the city and across the country, registered at the national level RASH Colombia, and we are proud to belong to the United Confederation of RASH. We spend every day struggling for freedom, equality and solidarity of the peoples of the world.

You consider yourself a political group or more like a cultural group?

We are a political organization that carries out counter-cultural and revolutionary acts within the Colombian youth movement, seeking empowerment of people and their liberation from the yoke of the oppressor. We work with various political organizations that are red, anarchist, revolutionary and combative (the list is long) in the idea that we implement with each a little more in the social and political movement in Colombia.

What do you think of the situation in Venezuela and Chavez's politics?

Well, we're not married to anyone, any party - we are independent and autonomous. We have neither flag nor borders, but we perceive that the Bolivarian Revolution for Latin America revolves around what happens in Venezuela - a draft policy for our continent, it relies heavily on the participation of people power. That is why we support him in all matters relating to social work that we hope will be fruitful for the Venezuelan people. We support the Bolivarian Continental!

And policy changes in South America following the election of a socialist president?

All this must be analyzed under the microscope for each country, because the contexts are different. Brazil's is a Social Democrat regime who is inclined to the right and not revolutionary. In Argentina, the process that started since the crisis of the early 2000s has been stopped dead by reactionaries. In Bolivia, Evo Morales has faced off impressively with domestic ultra-rightists over his battle to give more power to the people, which was very hard - the clashes resulted in many fatalities. Peru is headed by a lackey of U.S. imperialism. Countries attempting to take a radical shift live through hard confrontations with internal capitalists doing everything in their power to perpetuate their interests. We lack sufficient unity among peoples and international solidarity so that our continent could take a left turn and advance towards freedom. In Colombia, we have a stronger dictatorship protected by continental alliance of narco-paramilitary-politicians headed by Uribe (a South American mercenary in the service of gringos).

What is your vision of Bolivar?

For us, Bolivar is a South American struggle that is reborn on this continent for the people to be able to advance. All Power to the People! It is necessary to

t recover what is ours and to retain it because we have long been exploited, humiliated and massacred. It is necessary at the international level, that people show solidarity with his process and help us in different ways to achieve our aim. A new South America!

Can you tell us about the punk and skin scene in Colombia?

The punk scene is very ambiguous in Colombia. Politically, it was not clear, but there were exceptions, some claim a pugnacious punk and activist stance, and we work with them often. For the Colombian skin movement we can give you some numbers: 400 fake neo-Nazi skins, 300 ambiguous skins, 1000 anti-fa skins. In short, many skins, many fashions. Few true beliefs. Few concrete and real struggles. The only movement that continues to have a clear belief that is clean is RASH and some sections of SHARP Colombia. The balance is good but we must strengthen the ideological.

Are there any fascists and Nazis in Colombia, what is their address?

Yes, although it may seem contradictory, there are Fachos here! They have a strong rap. They say they fight for the race, when all are the product of miscegenation Continental. They say they fight for the white family, but are closer to the toxicological or gangster. Finally, they are a product of capitalism and European fashions. Young people with no sense of life or sense of belonging. Many come from the punk scene and are the product of ambiguity. They fight for nationalism, and "honor." Politically, they combine with ultraconservative parties who finance their damage, such as Cambio Radical ("Radical Change"), the Conservative Party and other Christian parties. The majority of them are children of poor families, very humble. This means their level of ignorance, which leads to being regarded as neo-Nazis. These morons are manipulated by many political

groups into paramilitaries, which use them to defend their interests. Their speech is modeled on that of Uribe calling for democratic security (sic), killing insurgents, etc.. (With this speech, they have many followers.) In an ultra-fascist country there will always be sheep to be dominated by political groups.

I guess state repression against the revolutionary elements is strong in Colombia. Could you tell us about it?

The repression is very strong here, actually. Each day, youths, trade union leaders, teacher union members, representatives of the mothers, students, and activists disappear and nobody does anything. This paramilitary-fascist "State" continues to destroy the people to serve its interests and in a macabre manner dominate domestic policy under the threat of bullets. The state carries out large-scale massacres and dresses up the corpses of civilians to proclaim the execution of "terrorists."

www.rashbogota.org

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Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

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ALL OUT JUNE 7, 2010 TO THE L.A. CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING FOR THE MURDER TRIAL OF KILLER COP JOHANNES MEHSERLE!

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SAY NO TO NAZIS IN L.A. APRIL 17!

Human Rights & Liberation
for Black, Brown, Native, Asian, gay & all poor & working people!

The openly nazi racist group, NSM, is holding a rally at the south lawn of City Hall, First & Spring, on Saturday April 17 at noon. We will gather at the **Triforium statue, Temple & Main at 10** to form a picket line around L.A. City Hall, to let them know they and their plans for genocide are not welcome.

The NSM wants to subjugate or exterminate African and Mexican/indigenous people, Asians, gays and disabled people. The city shouldn't waste a dime helping them spout their hate or promote racism and violence against women, LGBTQ people, Jews and others.

Unite against the stormtroopers of the Empire!

No Nazis in LA Coalition: Black Riders, ARA, IWW and others. For more info:
310-495-0299 antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

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AGAINST NAZI TERROR, INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY:
No Nazis in L.A. April 17
Liberation and Human Rights for Communities in Struggle

by Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)

The "National Socialist Movement" (NSM), a neo-nazi formation with a base in Riverside CA and units around the US, has issued a call for a national gathering of their organization in Los Angeles. It features a rally on Saturday, April 17 at noon on the lawn of L.A. City Hall, for which they have already applied for and received a permit. They will be bringing a substantial number of uniformed nazi thugs and boneheads from around the US as part of their so-called "Reclaim the Southwest Campaign." The NSM boasts of being the oldest and largest nazi outfit in the U.S., but their public modus operandi is always hiding behind the skirts of the police. They pose a clear and serious threat of racist and sexist violence, which always follows open nazi organizing. Two years ago, when a similar nazi group rallied in L.A. to commemorate the death of a founder of the racist Silent Brotherhood Aryan underground, several of their members were involved in a racist stabbing incident against two Black men on their way into town from the Inland Empire.

The NSM openly advocates a "white America," and the subjugation or extermination of people of color, Jews, disabled people and gays. Too many people have died at the hands of such nazis, too many people sacrificed too much to eliminate the scourge of Nazism and fascism, to allow such a campaign to go forward without effective and overwhelming opposition.

Too often, even militant anti-racists, socialists and anarchists opposed to the Nazis have operated without regard to questions of self-determination and international solidarity, instead functioning independently of the leadership of anti-colonial liberation forces. It is essential, here in Los Angeles, that opposition to the nazis be based on support for indigenous and Mexicano sovereignty, African liberation, migrant rights and de-colonization for Asian and other oppressed people. We need to oppose not only the Nazis, but also racism, sexism, empire, homophobia and the oppression of disabled people. The provocation by the NSM provides an important opportunity to bring home the point that counter-action and initiatives must be based on such positive principles and on anti-colonial leadership. It is an opportunity to build the unity and solidarity of the people the Nazis target, as well as a mandate for people of European descent to stand up against, oppose and help uproot white supremacy.

A little history is pertinent to the importance of organized anti-fascist action led by liberation forces. In 1981, the Ku Klux Klan scheduled a rally in Washington DC to celebrate the election and inauguration of Ronald Reagan (whom they had endorsed, and who had announced his candidacy in Philadelphia, Mississippi, where civil rights workers Schwerner, Cheney and Goodman were assassinated by the KKK with police compliance). Massive community opposition by local Black DC residents, supported by a national mobilization called by, among others, the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee, a group of European-descent anti-racists in solidarity with the Black liberation struggle, broke up the Klan rally and chased off the Klansmen.

Here in Los Angeles in 1992, the neo-nazi Populist Party, fronted by Black pseudo-nationalist Robert Brock, put on a program in south-central L.A., denying Hitler's genocide against European Jews. They dishonestly claimed the participation of Prof. Jeffries from NY and the local Committee Against Black Exploitation in the film industry. The Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, supported by ARA-LA/People Against Racist Terror, called a counter-demonstration, exposing the lies propagated by both the Nazis and the zionist Anti-Defamation League. The LAPD ran riot against community opponents of the Nazi gathering, probably one of the factors that fueled the '92 rebellion. More recently in Los Angeles, a counter-demonstration with leadership from the Black Riders Liberation Party, the Puerto Rican Alliance and Union del Barrio silenced the existing system. Liberal opposition tends to portray Nazis as "hateful extremists" and sometimes lump them together with white anti-racists and Black or Mexicano radicals. Liberal anti-fascism also relies on the police to "maintain peace," conceding the power of the state, which always protects the nazis in the name of "free speech." Some even recommend ignoring the Nazis. But it is essential to expose the cowardly nature of the Nazis, as well as the reactionary, pro-imperial nature of their politics, by manifesting a strong, public opposition based on pro-liberation, anti-colonial and anti-imperialist politics, supporting the right to self-determination and self-defense, and independent direct action. It's important to allow for diversity of tactics, but it's not simply a question of what tactics to use against Nazis.

and neutralized a Crenshaw-area rally by the racist Minuteman group and their reactionary Black front-man Ted Hayes, who were attempting to provoke Black-Brown contradictions. In that case, the police pulled the permit the racists had for Leimert Park, and they were never allowed to enter the park. These were important victories in which there was clear internationalist leadership.

However, there are other, less successful examples. In 1983, here in L.A., the Nazis, the Aryan Nations, the Klan, and Metzger's White Aryan Resistance, were able to hold a triple cross burning in the San Fernando Valley/Sunland area. They did so with the complicity of the LAPD and the compliance of the racist zionist Jewish Defense League, which had advance intelligence on the time and place of the cross-burning. Several of the racists involved later became fugitives as members of "the Order" Aryan underground, responsible for a number of racist killings and robberies. In Toledo, OH, 3 years ago, the NSM called a "pro-police" rally and march in the Black community. Anti-Racist Action and local anarchists called a counter-action, but the principal response and opposition arose spontaneously from local Black residents outraged at the Nazis and their police protectors. A police riot and mini-rebellion ensued, in which police brutalized community people and made mass arrests, out of which several people were eventually imprisoned on felony charges, despite ARA support for legal defense efforts.

In Riverside CA last year, the NSM was able to hold a second rally, after their first one was dispersed by militant opponents (while liberal forces held a counter-rally several miles away). At the second rally, police were in massive control, as the dominant anti-nazi forces accepted police "free speech" pens – big metal grates separating them from the Nazis. The Brown Berets on the one hand, and direct action anarchist anti-fascists on the other, were isolated and either subjected to arrest or marginalized. The lessons from those experiences point to the need for united action based on international solidarity, and respect for self-determination and self-defense, to lead the anti-fascist protests that are sure to emerge.

In the current period, the Nazis are attempting to 'seize the time' of the deepening economic crisis of militarism, unemployment, foreclosures and austerity in education and social services to project themselves as a pseudo-revolutionary alternative to business as usual. But they do this by scapegoating African and indigenous people, migrants, Muslims, Jews, LGBTQ people and the left. Opposing them means putting forward that authentic anti-imperialist social transformation and de-colonization is the only solution to the crisis of the empire. Such a pole of attraction can win over the poor and working people of all nationalities who are increasingly disillusioned with and frustrated by corporate domination and politics as usual.

Recent scheduled rallies on March 20 by the NSM and their nazi and Aryan "kin" in Chicago IL and Austin TX, Vancouver BC and Calgary were all dismal failures met with strong resistance. Let's build on those anti-nazi victories, and give the NSM the "welcome" they deserve in L.A. All who are committed to joint anti-imperialist anti-fascist work, on the basis of international solidarity

Open Nazis are not the main enemy in a struggle against colonialism, capitalism and imperialism, but they are a significant element, particularly in a period of ongoing economic crisis and political instability within the belly of the beast. The National Socialist Movement and similar open fascist forces are seeking greater political legitimacy. They want greater influence within larger white nationalist and reactionary social and political forces, such as the anti-immigrant movement, the "tea-baggers," and the re-emerging militia movement. An associate of the NSM in Phoenix is a Republican Party Committeeman, and a pal of anti-migrant Sheriff Joe Arpaio. Another associate was recently busted in Louisville KY for posting a threat to the life of the president on an NSM chat-site, "NewSaxon." NSM members and other nazis, including some from white power street and prison gangs involved in drug dealing and other criminal behavior, have been making veiled and open threats against anti-fascist organizers. It's important to expose and defeat their attempts at intimidation, and in fact the counter-organizing has grown with every threat.

The NSM and similar nazi forces base themselves on two key elements: they present themselves as a paramilitary type operation prepared to use violence (and in fact are violence-prone, promoting racist, anti-migrant, anti-Semitic, anti-gay and anti-communist bullying). And they falsely claim to be anti-capitalist revolutionaries (as did Hitler). Liberal opponents essentially concede these strong points to the nazis, because they only want to defend "multi-racial democracy and tolerance" within

and support for self-determination and self-defense, are invited to participate in a campaign to send the nazis packing.

The points of unity of the No Nazis in L.A. Coalition are:

No Nazis in L.A.! Flush 'em out and send 'em packing!
Human Rights and Liberation for Black, Brown, Native, Asian, LGBTQ, disabled and all poor and working people!
No to racism, sexism, imperialism, anti-semitism and genocide!
We will not accept penning by the police, and we respect tactical diversity.

There will be a mobile counter-demonstration for the April 17 nazi rally, starting at 10:00 AM before the Nazi rally is scheduled to begin at City Hall. We will gather at the Triforium in the park on the corner of Temple and Main, diagonally across from City Hall on the north and then form a moving picket line around City Hall. We are also undertaking intelligence gathering on what other activities the nazis may have planned for the weekend, through Hitler's birthday on April 20. We want to turn over whatever rocks they're hiding under, and expose them to the people. People will be coming from all over California and from elsewhere around the US to show this national gathering of Nazis what we think of 'em. A coalition of Black, Mexicano/indigenous, Asian, Jewish, European and other anti-fascists has been meeting regularly, and we anticipate that other groups will also be gathering to counter-protest the nazis in various ways and behind various banners.

Please call Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART) at **310-495-0299**, or email **antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com** for more information. Please let us know about nazi sightings or activity in your area, or if you have other intelligence to share. You can download bilingual English-Spanish flyers for the counter-demonstration from www.antiracistaction.org. (Click on resources, then flyers, look under "Los Angeles.") If you want to tell the city to stop wasting their money protecting Nazi lowlifes, call Mayor Villaraigosa and the L.A. city council members at 311.

¡Dales La Bota al Mitin de Los Nazis en Los Angeles!
¡Construye Resistencia Comunitaria!

El grupo racista Nazi "National Socialist Movement" (NSM) esta planeando un mitin publica en la alcaldía de la ciudad de Los Angeles el dia sabado 17 de abril, las 12:00 de mediodia. Estos desgraciados neo-nazi/torpes, protejidos por LAPD (policía de Los Angeles) tienen la agenda racista de comemorar el cumpleaños de Hitler y lancer su campaña de "reclamar el suroeste" y subjugar o eliminar a gente de color, negros, Mexicanos/indigenos, Asiaticos, Judios, y gays. Este racismo perverso esta basado en organizar con intención de hacer daño fisico y ataques a las minorias. ¡No Vamos Permitir que Salgan con Estas Movidas!

'NSM' es formado y guiado por criminales y neo-nazis y participan y promueve actos de violencia. Buscan a reunir con otros grupos racistas y reaccionarias como Ku Klux Klan (KKK), "tea-party" activistas de nacionalismo blanco, y las fuerzas anti-migrante represivas. La ciudad va a gastar una fortuna para policía que los defiende. Llame a la ciudad al 3-1-1, para contactar al Alcalde Villarraigosa y el Concilio y expresar su opinion de no gastar y desperdiciar dinero en proteyendo a los Nazis.

La Coalición "No Nazis in L.A." presenta una contra-movilización para denunciar al racismo y facismo, y para defender los derechos humanos, justicia y liberación. La mejor defensa contra tacticas racistas y violencia sexista es una fuerte resistencia comunitaria. Unete y apoya esta manifestación para decir "¡No y Fuera a Los Nazis! ¡Derechos Humanos, justicia y liberación para Africanos, Mexicanos, indigenos, Asiaticos, y todos los pobres y trabajadores!"

Reunimos a las 10 de la mañana, el dia sabado 17 de abril, frente del "Triforium" en la esquina de Temple y Main, por atras de la alcaldía, y vamos a marchar en un piquete alrededor de la alcaldía. Para mas información, llame a "Acción Anti-Racista," **310-495-0299** o por correo electronico **antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com**

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Contact the nearest chapter for help in starting a new one!

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) WE GO WHERE THEY GO: Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. **Never let the nazis have the street!**

2) WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US: This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS: In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a free classless society.

WE INTEND TO WIN!

www.antiracistaction.org

Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education needs your help!

Postal and printing costs are up. Dozens of new prisoners ask to get free subs every month. Over 1200 copies of each edition are sent free to prisoners. Friends of ARA-LA/PART are either in prison, or facing prosecution for anti-fascist political activity. We had to switch to quarterly publication because of a lack of sufficient funds and staffing.

What can you do?

We rely entirely on subscriptions and reader donations to publish. We've been coming out for 23 years, distributing thousands of copies free to prisoners, anti-racists, GIs and other concerned people without partisan subsidy, government funds or corporate grants. We depend entirely on you, the reader, to keep printing hard-hitting anti-racist, anti-colonialist analysis. If you like what you're reading –

Don't delay -- Subscribe today: $16 individual/$26 institutional or international annual subscription (for 4 quarterly issues)

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ATTENTION PRISON SUBSCRIBERS!

Because of financial constraints, we must now ask that prisoners who want a free subscription contact us every six months. Too many papers are coming back because of address changes, releases or other similar problems. Therefore, we ask that prisoners who want to continue their subs write us at least once during the year, and every time your address changes, with your EXACT address as it should appear on the address label to make sure the institution delivers it. Sorry, and thanks for all your expressions of support – they're the main reason **TTT** is still going all these years. Also, please be aware that **TTT** is a small project with few resources: **we can't provide books or legal assistance, nor investigate individual claims of innocence**. We appreciate your understanding of these limits.

Open Letter from Pam Africa:

WE NEED YOUR HELP … AGAIN … FOR JUSTICE FOR MUMIA!

March 19, 2010

Dear Friends and Supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal

The time has come to ante up for Mumia. We are writing to invite you to join our Civil Rights Investigation Campaign (CRIC) on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal with your checkbooks and credit cards. As many of you know, the campaign is urging the U.S. Justice Department to open an investigation into the decades-long violations of Mumia's civil rights.

As you also probably know, Mumia recently suffered a setback when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled for the Philadelphia district attorney, vacating earlier rulings that had overturned the death penalty and granted a new sentencing-phase trial. Now, the Third Circuit Court will decide whether or not to execute Mumia without having a new sentencing trial. It's no exaggeration to say that Mumia's life is in grave danger … more than ever.

We believe that this campaign, which has already won national and international support and generated tens of thousands of letters and petitions to Attorney General Eric Holder, can positively change Mumia's fate. The campaign's supporters include the NAACP, the Riverside Church Prison Ministry, dozens of international unions, WESPAC; actress Ruby Dee; former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark; Professors Cornel West, Noam Chomsky, and Henry Louis Gates; U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel; and former U.S. Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. (For current lists of national and international organizations and individuals that support the campaign, see our web site www.freemumia.com under "Join the Campaign" and scroll to the bottom).

But the campaign can't move forward to fulfill its promise and possibilities without material support. We must produce more palms cards, fliers, petitions, and buttons; make banners; rent buses to Washington; pay for use of the Press Club. We pay for our meeting space, invest in video supplies, overnight mail documents to Mumia to assure delivery, copy materials and even prepare to host some of the scheduled international visitors and participants in the meeting with the Department of Justice. Now is the time to do everything we can to fight for Mumia's life.

We will return to Washington, DC, on April 26 (two days after Mumia's 56th birthday) with busloads of supporters and boxloads of petitions in Phase 2 of the CRIC. (Phase 1 ended on November 12, 2009, when we delivered thousands of petitions to the Justice Department chief of the Civil Rights Division.) This time we hope to meet with officials to make our case in person.

We can't control the courts. But we can invest in an alternative strategy that may very likely have results leading to a new trial. And exoneration.

Here's how you can help. You can make a tax-deductible donation to the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC) by going to our Web site, www.freemumia.com, and clicking on "Please donate to the struggle for Mumia's freedom" at the right. PayPal takes it from there. Or you can send a check made out to "IFCO/Free Mumia Coalition" to the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC), P.O. Box 16, College Station, New York, NY 10030. All money will be shared by the International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal and the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC). We also hope you can be with us in Washington, DC on Monday, April 26.

We understand that the fight for freedom is not free. It takes some money. Many of you have come forward in the past and contributed to this critical fight. We hope you can help us help Mumia again this time.

Free Mumia and All Political Prisoners! Ona Move!

Pam Africa, International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal

Apartheid Schools

written 3/17/10 and copyright © 2010 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Generations after the alleged landmark decision, Brown v.Bd of Education (1954), which outlawed segregation in public schools, millions of American students trudge every day to what can only be called Apartheid schools.

The schools are not only predominantly Black and Latino, but they're invariably under funded, poorly resourced, badly staffed, and woefully shabby.

States and local governments customarily divert funding to white and suburban schools, which often look more like college campuses; a sharp contrast to urban schools, which look like, smell like, and operate like juvenile prisons.

In Jonathan Kozol's 2005 book, Shame of the Nation (Three Rivers Press) is found a wealth of tales from half a dozen states, documenting the immense and horrific damage done to millions of Black and Latino children, who are taught, daily, that their dreams, hopes and lives are of little social worth.

They are children of No Child Left Behind, a punitive and repressive law, which subjects them to mindless tests, which only serve to undermine real learning, discourages real teachers, and enriches testing agencies. It is called education, but it kills the mind.

And what is the Obama administrations response? Mend it; don't end it. An act that has caused so much social carnage as this! Why can't it be repealed?

No Child Left Behind has been a disaster. Isn't it time to end it?

Audio of most of Mumia's essays are at: http://www.prisonradio.org
http://mumiapodcast.libsyn.com/
Mumia's got a podcast! Mumia Abu-Jamal's Radio Essays - Subscribe at the website or on iTunes and get Mumia's radio commentaries online.
Subscribe: mumiacolumns-subscribe@topica.com

Mumia Abu-Jamal's new book -- JAILHOUSE LAWYERS: PRISONERS DEFENDING PRISONERS V. THE USA, featuring an introduction by Angela Y. Davis -- has been released! It is available from City Lights Books:
http://www.citylights.com/book/?GCOI=87286100448090
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
215 476-8812 212-330-8029 WWW.FREEMUMIA.COM
Send our brotha some LOVE and LIGHT at:
Mumia Abu-Jamal AM 8335 SCI-Greene 175 Progress Drive Waynesburg, PA 15370

Call for Essays:

Voices Through the Wall: Prisoners Write About Prisons

The editors seek non-fiction essays by men and women currently incarcerated in American prisons, jails, or correctional facilities. We hope to create a collection that will appeal to publishers by mining the experience and wisdom of inmates, and by offering a better understanding of the prison's place in society. We seek authors who write with the authority that only incarceration can bring. We want their voices to become part of the public dialogue about the prison system. We are open to many styles, but all submitted essays must draw on first-hand experience.

Some topics of interest to us are: coping; health care; how to control violence; education; the aging prison population; and visions of a better way to operate (both personally and institutionally). We're looking for reflection on the work of dealing with time inside (and what might make it easier); the challenges of physical and psychological survival; what inmates need in order to make it on the outside. What works and why; what doesn't work and why it doesn't work (i.e. practical views on reform), etc. We are also very open to seeing what we hadn't looked for.

Voices Through the Wall will showcase what the incarcerated have to offer to the public. We value quality writing that takes thoughtful, constructive positions even on the most passionately felt ideas.

Word Limit: 5,000 words (approximately 15 double-spaced pages). Please number pages. Clearly composed handwritten manuscripts are also acceptable. There is no reading fee. Published authors will not receive payment but will receive one copy of the publication.

Authors should NOT send the sole copies of their work. (Keep a copy of your own.) Please include sufficient contact information on the writing itself (direct or through a program supervisor) so that we can inform authors of our decisions. All contributors will be notified of results. If possible, include postage (44-cent stamp) so we can mail our decision. We cannot return manuscripts (which will be recycled). Program supervisors are encouraged to solicit high-quality work and submit essays together in a single mailing. The editors may request revisions of promising works.

Send work to: "Voices Through the Wall"
Hamilton College
198 College Hill Road
Clinton, NY 13323
Submission deadline: April 1, 2010

NAZI NO-SHOWS: VANCOUVER, CALGARY, WACO, CHICAGO

Several recent scheduled Nazi rallies on March 20 and March 21 in the US and Canada were dismal failures for the fascists, who were mainly no-shows, and often a sparkling success for anti-fascist and anti-racist groups. Here are a couple of reports:

CHICAGO: HOW IT WENT DOWN

It was a beautiful spring Sunday afternoon where the Illinois National Socialist Front was supposed to march for "White Pride World Wide." But for the few Nazis that dared show their face in the city of Chicago, there was nothing but a barrage of blows raining on their parade.

Southside ARA had been scouting in the downtown area early on, watching out for neo-Nazi skinheads and other white supremacists. Within minutes of their pathetic march of four boneheads waving white pride flags, clandestine anti-fascists took formation and confronted them, successfully delivering U-lock justice to the unsuspecting Nazi trash with trained precision. In broad daylight on Michigan Avenue, Nazis helplessly had flags ripped from their hands and were beaten down as pedestrians watched in awe. Later, a police car pulled up and arrested the bewildered and injured boneheads while the anti-fascists swiftly disappeared into thin air. Showing up seconds later, the pro-diversity / anti-hate rally laid the final icing on the cake by surrounding the humiliated and obviously defeated boneheads and taunted them with chants, holding a rally directly in the path of their march.

With only a handful of white supremacists willing to publicly show their faces, it was evident that local neo-Nazis were not willing to get behind the NSF. In fact, the NSF didn't even show up to their own march! Intelligence gathering showed that they had dropped out of participation just before the march and had handed it over to other local neo-Nazis, unwilling to complete what they had started.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE NSF

Several months ago Chicagoland anti-fascists launched a campaign against the NSF utilizing a diversity of tactics including face to face confrontations, flyering the neighborhoods and schools of individual members, posting their home addresses and phone numbers. There were phone campaigns focusing on key Nazi organizers, and multiple cases of successful infiltration of their

ranks. These tactics have achieved successes in that the NSF has become ineffective. Six months ago they were openly organizing barbecues, protesting "black on white hate crimes," and the opening of a Holocaust Museum in Skokie. But their most recent attempt to march in Chicago was a complete failure. Their recruitment gatherings have dwindled, their website went down for a month at a crucial time for promoting the White Pride March, and they have not responded to phone calls or emails from people asking about public information concerning their events.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

While it is easy for us to see a neo-Nazi march as an intrusion of racism into our community, we must also address the way that racism affects our city on a daily basis. Two weeks ago, a homeowner in Mt. Greenwood posted a sign in his front yard stating "No to the Ghetto ... White Power" and if you read recent newspaper headlines you can see the aftermath of Jon Burge and the inherent racism of the Chicago Police Department. Confronting neo-Nazis and other white nationalists is only the beginning of eliminating racism, and we intend to align with other organizations to further combat forms of racism that exist in extremist groups as well as in sectors of society that are less blatant yet no less important.

CONCLUSION

We effectively came together as a city to successfully kick the Nazis out of town. Fierce resistance was delivered and everyone got away without arrest or injury. To the defeated Nazi scum reading this, give it up! ARA is everywhere.

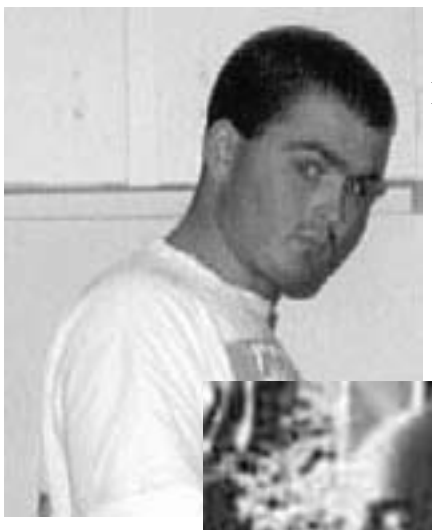
South Side Chicago Anti-Racist Action:
http://southsideara.wordpress.com/
southsidechicagoara@hushmail.com

REPORT FROM VANCOUVER

300 people gathered at Braid skytrain station on March 21 in solidarity with the International Day for the Elimination of Racism. "We're here to help end racism, in solidarity with those who died in South Africa in 1960 fighting the apartheid there," a masked anarchist explained. Groups present in the action included among others, Anti-Racist Action, the Anti-Poverty Committee, Progressive Cultural Center, No One Is Illegal, and the Communist Party of Canada. Also among the day's objectives was to confront a rumored neo-Nazi rally that was to begin at the same station. "Those boneheads will not being holding a hate rally in my town," said an adamant masked activist from SkinHeads Against Racial Prejudice (SHARP). The Anarchist contingent made up the front line confronting any white supremacists. Only one real confrontation occurred involving two persons who spat on the anti-racism banner, but quickly ran on-board a departing sky-train. Rally organizers called it a resounding success, and continued their demonstration downtown at the Vancouver Art Gallery, where they chased off a further three neo-Nazis.

White Supremacist Gets Three Years for Lying to Obtain Passport In L. A.

Based on a report by Dennis Romero in LA Weekly City News



Dan Shersty

Ross Hack, 38, drove to Los Angeles in the summer of 1998 to get a passport, and lied on the application. In December, he was sentenced to three years in federal prison for the crime. Investigators think there's more to Hack than just telling lies. The caper started in 1998 with the Fourth of July murders of Daniel Shersty and Lin "Spit" Newborn, leaders of the Las Vegas affiliate of Anti-Racist Action. An investigation led to Hack's residence, where authorities with a search warrant took Hack's passport, weapons and racist propaganda, according to a statement by the U.S. Department of Justice. Hack wasn't there, but officers left a note for him stating that they stopped by and took stuff. A few days later, he drove to L. A. to get a replacement passport. Hack lied on the application, saying he lost his last one. He soon fled to Europe and stayed there for six years.

John Butler, Hack's sister's boyfriend was convicted of murder in the double homicide. Federal authorities last year discovered that Hack was back in Vegas. Not only that, they say, he was active again in the white-power movement. In fact, he organized a 2008 rally, authorities said, where someone was nearly killed. When investigators interviewed him, he "admitted that he lied on the passport application because he feared he was being investigated in relation to the double homicide," according to the DOJ statement. If you think there might be more to the story than passport fraud, it seems the feds are thinking the same thing. "The case against Hack is part of an ongoing investigation being conducted by the FBI's Las Vegas Office, Civil Rights Division, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and the US Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service, Las Vegas and Los Angeles Offices," states the DOJ.

http://blogs.laweekly.com/ladaily/city-news/alleged-white-supremacist-sent/

Lin "Spit" Newborn

LOVE Park 4 case update: Commonwealth appeals to State Court

Two and a half years since their case first began - and almost a year to the day since the trial judge first decided on the motion in question - the LOVE Park 4 defendants finally received some positive news about their case.

On December 1st, 2009, Common Pleas Court Judge Frank Palumbo re-affirmed a court order requiring prosecutors to disclose the names of the undercover narcotics officers involved in the 2007 altercation with protesters of a scheduled Ku Klux Klan rally in Center City that never actually happened. Palumbo denied the District Attorney's appeal of a ruling made Dec. 12, 2008 by Municipal Court President Judge Marsha H. Neifield. Palumbo gave prosecutors until Jan. 12 to decide if they will appeal to the state Superior Court. The city prosecutor argued last December that divulging the undercover officers' names would endanger them. But Neifield noted that even the prosecutor acknowledged that the officers' names had previously been disclosed when they testified in drug trials. Though concerned with the undercover officers' safety, Neifield said she was offended that police did not even anonymously mention the officers' presence in arrest reports for Schultz, Keenan, and Robbins. Without that information, which Neifield said was mandatory for prosecutors to disclose, it would be impossible for defense attorneys to prove their claim that undercover officers precipitated the confrontation. Cathie Abookire, spokesperson for the District Attorney's Office, said Palumbo's ruling was being reviewed, but a recent check to the defendant's dockets show that the Commonwealth has indeed appealed to the State Superior Court. An appeal to the State Superior Court means the defendants will need additional money to pay their lawyers and cover the cost of transcripts and other legal filings. The LOVE Park 4 defendants wish to thank all those who have provided support thus far, and are asking that people join them in their fight against state oppression. You can donate via paypal or write to the LOVE Park 4 defense committee at: lovepark4@gmail.com http://www.myspace.com/supportlovepark4

The three anti-racist activists - Jared Schultz, Thomas Keenan, and Jason Robbins- were arrested July 23, 2007, near LOVE Park after they followed undercover narcotics officers who presented themselves as neo-Nazis. When the officers got into a waiting SUV, a verbal confrontation ensued revealing that the "neo-Nazis" were undercover cops. More curious was that they were sitting in a vehicle with FBI Special Agent Stephen Powell and Philadelphia Police Detective Sean Brennan both attached to the Joint Terrorism Task Force. To defense attorneys, these events sounded too much like the case against neo-Nazi Hal Turner*, whose job it was as a paid FBI informant to incite both anti-racists and other neo-Nazis to violence. Paul Hetznecker posed the question on many people's minds - is the federal government using informants in situations like the one in LOVE Park all across the country? Is there an official program to engage in this sort of behavior? (see http://www.northjersey.com/news/Records_show_feds_used_ultra-right_radio_host_for_years.html for more info on Hal Turner's escapades).

Message to the Migrant Rights Movement Part 1:
On Colonial Occupation

By Raúl Alcaraz, from Tohono O'odham lands, Southern Arizona, 26 February 2010 www.antifronteras.com

With Arizona state-sponsored anti-Raza, anti-migrant bills being seriously proposed left and right, increasing militarization and genocide at the U.S./Mexico border-murderlands, kidnappings, disappearances and separations of families through the form of raids, detentions and deportations, times are proving that "government is best which governs not at all."

We are living under siege in "low-intensity" warfare that has the potential to escalate. Modern-day government sponsored legal segregation terrorism is at its finest. Despite the differences, countless folks have already compared the current migrant struggle to that of U.S.-based African folks during the Civil Rights and Black Liberation movements of the 1960's and 70's. There are many parallels in the oppression we face but not in resistance tactics. (Let me save that point for another "message"!)

But today, the Right Wing is right, very right! This is NOT our country, this is not our government, and these are not our institutions. I know it's a slippery slope so don't get it twisted, I am NOT proposing that we all get deported! But let's take a look back at herstory. This country, this government, these institutions were not built by "immigrants" alone (as many signs declare in street marches), they were built on the bloodshed of our Native, African and migrant ancestors combined. Our blood still stains capitol and Wall Street towers; our sweat, blood and tears can be found in southwestern railroads, modern highways and endless agricultural fields across the land. Bloodshed is splattered on concrete, on asphalt, on land, on dirt, on the very earth that sustains the riches of this country called the United States of America. So the Right is right: the KKK, the Minutemen, the politicians, la Migra, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Joe Arpaio—they're all right, none of this is ours; it was never meant for people like you or me to begin with. So why are we begging to get our share of the American apple pie? Why are we trying to reform colonization/slavery/capitalism? As W.E.B. DuBois would ask us, do we really believe we can reform the same systems that were created to oppress us?

What is ours is ancient and thousands of years old. Our indigenous ancestors migrated throughout these lands WITHOUT BORDERS thousands of years before any Niña, Pinta, Santa Maria or Mayflower ever dreamt of crossing the Atlantic Ocean. Colonization crossed us, the border crossed us and now we are living on occupied lands. The occupation is their dream; it's a colonial dream. European settlers landed, invaded, took over lands and set up their own systems. Occupation is a bloody thing as it imposes a foreign system on Native people. This is why today in 2010 Native land is still filled with their systems of oppression: their school system, their universities, their history books, their city councils, their supervisors, their mayors, their governors, their president, their congress, their senate, their constitution, their electoral system, their Democrat and Republican parties, their stores, their malls, their corporations, their CEO's, their jobs, their money, their economic system, their hospitals, their religion, their churches, their marriage institutions, their real estate, their media, their police, their courts, their jails, their *migra*, their detention centers, their checkpoints, their immigration system, their citizenship papers, their borders, their army, their weapons, their tanks, their wars. The list can go on of things THEIRS NOT OURS. This country was/is built **by** us but NOT **for** us. That's why hundreds of years later, poor people and people of color are still segregated, still discriminated, still terrorized, still left on the margins of great white wealth.

Yes, we still live here and participate in this system, mostly because there is no other alternative, right? So what do we do? The question is overwhelming with over 500 years of political, economic and social context. Malcolm X and Zapatista principles come to mind: self-respect, self-defense and self-determination… But a proposal more specific and concrete than that? That is our responsibility to figure out as a community. We need to get creative, innovative and consult with community and seek guidance from elders and other liberation social movements that have used different methods of struggle. For now, all I propose is that we recognize the historical and current context of occupation and that we not become trapped or limited within colonial frameworks when developing visions and strategies for social change. Their system should not be the "end all/be all" of our visions for a better world. If we limit ourselves to the confines of their system, we have already lost from the very beginning and we ourselves will continue upholding the very same colonial structures we proclaim to defy. Like Audre Lord once declared: "We cannot take down the Master's house with the Master's tools." We must stop defining ourselves and the Migrant Rights Movement on foreign ways of being, on their system, on the continuing occupation of our minds, bodies, hearts and souls.

We must reclaim/transform language and our points of view. The current debate on "borders" and "immigration reform" even from the so-called pro-migrant camp comes from within a colonial framework that lacks a social justice vision and never challenges borders or citizenship. Instead, the migrant rights movement Hispanic/White liberal establishment negotiates and collaborates with colonization and occupation.

With U.S. government-sponsored immigration raids, detentions, deportations, and genocide of our people and corporate interests increasing unemployment, poverty, imperialist wars and inaccessible health care at global levels, times are proving that "government [and corporations are] best which govern not at all."

Let's take it all back! ¡YA BASTA!
¡Un abrazo fuerte a tod@s mis compañer@s en la lucha!

The Master's Narrative: Memes of Caste and the Anomaly of Histories

by Tupac Enrique Acosta

When the Adivasi, Indigenous Peoples of the Indian subcontinent, relate their experiences under the colonizing regimes that have swept their homelands, even references to Alexander the Great are preceded by the invasions of the Aryans. This introduced the "white" concept of human cultural identity and superiority as the determinant for the caste systems that continue to plague the cultural landscape of India even after five thousand years.

Fast forward to the current dialogue on race and institutionalized racism in US society that was intensified by the 2008 presidential campaign. Every day we see and HEAR echoes of the memes of caste that are reinforced every time the phrase "white people" or "white" is used to describe the European American populations of the United States. Perpetuation of a caste-based society would seem to be completely antithetical to the precepts of the "American Experiment of Democracy," yet it remains embedded in the vernacular of public and private discourse regarding social relationships. It has roots in the Indo-European histories, but is codified in the US Civil Rights statutes as follows:

United States Code
TITLE 42, CHAPTER 21, SUBCHAPTER I, § 1981.
Equal rights under the law
(a) Statement of equal rights
All persons within the jurisdiction of the United States shall have the same right in every State and Territory to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties, give evidence, and to the full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of persons and property ***as is enjoyed by white citizens***, [emphasis added] and shall be subject to like punishment, pains, penalties, taxes, licenses, and exactions of every kind, and to no other.

Thus the connection is made institutionally and culturally via the jurisprudence of the Master's Narrative, between concepts of white citizen and WHITE PERSON, establishing legal personality within the US social construct as a function of relationship to the dominant "white" power structures of rights and obligations. The anomaly being the Nican Tlacah Indigenous Peoples who supercede the US jurisdiction as sovereign confederations of nations holding treaty relationships with the US and other government states of the world.

Proposal: The historical moment of transformation which is evident nationally and globally, provides the opportunity to suggest a clarification in terms:

Specifically, TO EXCHANGE use of the term "WHITE", "white citizen", and "white person" with the term European-American in the public discourse on race and racism. If the term "Black" can be correlated with African-American, why cannot the same principle apply for the "whites"?

What prevents us from clarifying one of the terms of the social discourse involved in the experiment in American Democracy and let's see what happens. After all, the first victims of racism are the racists themselves, for what have they done to their own families and innocent children to produce such a culturally twisted and dehumanized constituency such as "white people" generation after generation?

Shall we collectively continue the experiment in democracy in this hemisphere, without perpetuating the institutionalizing of a continental affirmative action program of racism and superiority for one sector of society, the descendants of the European colonizers of the 15th century?

Editor's Note: A "meme" is a unit of cultural ideas, symbols or practices, which can be transmitted through writing, speech, gestures, rituals or other imitable phenomena. It is thought of as the mental equivalent of a gene, as it is considered to be self-replicating.

International Campaign in Support of Palestinian Political Prisoners

By Yousef Abudayyeh
http://palestinethinktank.com/2010/03/24/international-campaign-in-support-of-palestinian-political-prisoners/

The Free Palestine Alliance and Addameer are calling for days of action during the week of April 11 – 17 in support of Palestinian Political Prisoners.

April 17, 2010 marks the 34th anniversary of Palestinian Political Prisoners Day. As this historic and important day approaches, several Palestinian organizations and solidarity partners feel it is a critical time, now more than ever, to shed light on the unsung and sometimes forgotten heroes of the ongoing struggle to liberate Palestine. There are a total of 7,300 Arab prisoners. Among them are 33 women and 300 children. 400 are from Jerusalem and the 1948 occupied Palestinian areas, 745 from Gaza Strip, and 6,155 from the West Bank.

We encourage all to organize local events to spread awareness on this critical issue by holding workshops, teach-ins, film screenings and various activities throughout the week.

On Saturday April 17, 2010, bring together community and allies to fly kites in support of the thousands of Palestinian political prisoners.

For more information visit:
www.freepalestinianprisoners.com

More on Prisoners' Day from PFLP's 2008 appeal: **www.pflp.ps/english/?q=editorial-palestinian-prisoners-national-and-inter**

Prisoners' Day, a day of respect, honor and support and solidarity for Palestinian and Arab political prisoners imprisoned for their commitment to their cause, their homeland and their people. Today, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine bows in salute to these brave prisoners – men, women and children, from the newborn babies of women prisoners to Said al-Atabah and his decades of imprisonment – who today number more than 11,000, inside the torture cells, interrogation rooms and the prisons of the occupation.

These prisoners are over 11,000 hostages to the occupation forces whose situation is exploited by the so-called "peace process," and as the occupation forces attempt to barter concessions by negotiating small "releases" according to criteria set by the occupation and revocable at any time by the same occupier who abducted them, imprisoned them, held a mockery of a trial for them, tortured them. Today, we remember the martyrs of the prisoner movement, and the many injured. It is worth noting that this year, as in many years past, Israel has carried out massacres to prevent Palestinians from carrying out campaigns for prisoners and against Israel's torture policies.

Israel knows that these Palestinian and Arab prisoners are an integral part of the Palestinian national movement. Among them are workers, students, activists, teachers, of all ages. Among them are national leaders – comrade General Secretary Ahmad Sa'adat, Marwan Barghouthi, Abdelaziz Dweik, Hussam Khadr, Samir Kuntar. Israel engages in its policy of mass imprisonment as a means of attempting to hold our people as a whole hostage, and as an attempt to break our people and our cause by subjecting them to massive detention and imprisonment, rounding up our organizers, our leaders, our young people and our teachers, removing them from society and holding them away. Yet, despite these attempts, the prisoners are in fact central to and at the forefront of the Palestinian national movement. Every day, they carry on the struggle against the occupier on the front lines – inside his prisons, face-to-face. It is the Palestinian and Arab political prisoners who pay the first price for our struggle to stay alive. Despite Israel's best efforts, they are not isolated from the struggle, and they are not isolated from their people. They lead all of us as they stand in the front lines of struggle, inside the jails, continuing to fight for their – and all of our – freedom.

On this Prisoners' Day, it is urgent that we call for the widest possible campaign on a national and international level, in order to put the cause of Palestinian prisoners where it belongs, not only in the forefront of the Palestinian national movement but also the international solidarity movement. Every day, our prisoners pay the price on the front line for all of our struggle for freedom, and it is imperative that we take up our responsibility to struggle for freedom for our prisoners.

The rights that our prisoners have achieved only through their constant struggle – the history of Palestinian political prisoners is a history of resistance literature, hunger strikes, demonstrations, organizing and constant refusal to submit – are being stripped away on a daily basis, and further reduced. They are subject to torture in the interrogation chambers, and subject to illegal occupation courts which make a mockery of justice – that is, if they are tried at all; at present, one-half of Palestinian prisoners have never even had a trial in one of these illegitimate military courts. They are denied family visits in further attempts to cut off Palestinian prisoners from their families and their communities. At this time, it is urgent that we all stand with the prisoners and draw the highest level of attention to the cause of freedom for the prisoners, and shine a light on the torture and abuse of the occupier.

The prisoners represent all Palestinian trends in confrontation with the occupation. It is the prisoners' movement that in many ways represents the pinnacle of principled and clear national unity in practice, a national unity that is a lesson and a clarion call to all of us. In honor of their struggle and in recognition of its important, now is the time and the opportunity to raise a unified national campaign to free the prisoners – all of our prisoners, united in their confrontation with the occupier and their struggle for liberation. It is an opportunity to reflect the unity and the steadfastness of the prisoner movement in our organizing to support them. This campaign should take place across all of Palestine – in the occupied lands of 1948, the West Bank, and Gaza – just as our prisoners in the Zionist jails come from all of Palestine.

In addition, this campaign will set the agenda for an international call for prisoner support, rallying international forces and placing the issue of our prisoners on the international agenda as a primary Palestinian demand, and provide the support needed, on all levels, by the families of the prisoners, due to the immediate effects suffered by these families, with no conditions or discrimination. This campaign can be – and must be – a unifying factor in the Palestinian national movement, just as our prisoners themselves are such a unifying factor.

Our Palestinian people in exile as well must be engaged in this campaign, not only to provide support for the families of the prisoners and to campaign for the freedom of their fellow Palestinians inside the Zionist jails, but also to engage in providing support and struggling for the Palestinian prisoners outside Palestine – in jails in Iraq, England, the U.S., Europe and elsewhere. Palestinian political imprisonment does not only take place inside Palestine, but wherever there is a Palestinian national movement, engaged in the struggle, and facing repression, and our people in exile and our communities can lend a clear and loud voice to the campaigns for the freedom of these prisoners.

The campaign to support the struggle of Palestinian political prisoners, however, should not only be a Palestinian campaign. Instead, it should be a fundamental part of solidarity work – not an obscure issue or a mere corollary to occupation – but a central and consistent part of solidarity work for Palestine, reflecting the front-line, central position of Palestinian political prisoners within our national movement. In addition, on an international level, this campaign can share common cause with other movements in order to demand freedom for all of our political prisoners, imprisoned around the world for their work in struggling for liberation for their people. Furthermore, the solidarity movement with Palestine can play a very important role in involving lawyers, legal associations and other institutions in holding international tribunals on torture and killings of Palestinian prisoners, and taking legal action to pursue on an international level those Israeli officials responsible for such crimes, and to hold human rights organizations accountable to live up to their responsibilities in advocating for the rights of Palestinian political prisoners. In addition, solidarity movements in various countries can play a key role in supporting and calling for the freedom of Palestinian political prisoners in their own countries, supporting the Palestinian community in its struggle against repression and imprisonment.

Today, we express our solidarity with all political prisoners around the world, take inspiration in their leadership and pledge to uphold our national and international responsibility to struggle for their freedom and continue to struggle, in their path of resistance, organization and steadfastness, for the liberation of our land and our people.

FREE CISCO TORRES AND THE SAN FRANCISCO EIGHT!

After 38 years, the government's case against eight former Black Panther Party members and supporters has almost completely unraveled. (See the SF 8 statement of August 6). Only Francisco Torres still faces charges – see the Open Letter calling for his charges to be dropped. The eight were arrested January 23, 2007 in California, New York, and Florida on charges related to the 1971 killing of a San Francisco police officer. Similar charges were brought in 1975, but a California judge tossed out the charges, finding that they were based on statements made by three of the men after police in New Orleans tortured them for several days employing electric shock, cattle prods, beatings, sensory deprivation, plastic bags and hot, wet blankets for asphyxiation.

At the end of July, Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim were sentenced to probation and time served, after Herman agreed to plead to voluntary manslaughter and Jalil to conspiracy to voluntary manslaughter. All charges were then dropped on Richard Brown, Hank Jones, Harold Taylor, and Ray Boudreaux, with the prosecution admitting it had "insufficient evidence" against them. Charges had already been dropped against Richard O'Neal last year.

Francisco Torres, of NYC, is the last person still with charges; he maintains his innocence and will appear in court on August 10. Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim have been in prison in New York for almost 40 years on similar charges based on the US Government's COINTELPRO actions to disrupt and destroy radical organizations, especially the Black Panther Party. Showing the weakness of the prosecution's case, Bell and Muntaqim were given no additional prison time, and have been returned to NY where they will continue to fight for parole.

Two and a half years of mass support for the Brothers, including resolutions from the San Francisco Central Labor Council, the Berkeley City Council, and several San Francisco Supervisors, have almost broken the back of a vindictive prosecution organized by Homeland Security, the FBI, and California Attorney General Jerry Brown. The defense committee has vowed to keep up the pressure until charges are dropped against Francisco Torres and Herman and Jalil are back with their families and community.

Background: Murder Charges Against Former Black Panthers Based on Torture

Eight former Black community activists – Black Panthers and others – were arrested January 23, 2007 in California, New York, and Florida on charges related to the 1971 killing of a San Francisco police officer. Similar charges were thrown out after it was revealed that police used torture to extract confessions when some of these same men were arrested in New Orleans in 1973.

Richard Brown, Richard O'Neal, Ray Boudreaux, and Hank Jones were arrested in California. Francisco Torres was arrested in Queens, New York. Harold Taylor was arrested in Florida. Two men charged – Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim – have been held as political prisoners for over 30 years in New York State prisons. The men were charged with the murder of Sgt. John Young and conspiracy that encompasses numerous acts between 1968 and 1973.

Harold Taylor and John Bowman (recently deceased) as well as Ruben Scott (thought to be a government witness) were first charged in 1975. But a judge tossed out the charges, finding that Taylor and his two co-defendants made statements after police in New Orleans tortured them for several days employing electric shock, cattle prods, beatings, sensory deprivation, plastic bags and hot, wet blankets for asphyxiation. Such "evidence" is neither credible nor legal.

* Learn more. Join the e-mail list. Write the defendants. Donate. Details on these activities and more on our "What You Can Do" page. Free the San Francisco 8!

Committee for the Defense of Human Rights
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White Power Internet-radio Host Hal Turner Wins Second Hung Jury: Claims He Only Spouted Hate and Threats on FBI Orders

At his second trial for threatening the life of several federal judges, bombastic New Jersey-based white power Internet radio host Hal Turner testified that he had been a long-time informant for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Turner claimed that the FBI directed him to "ratchet up his rhetoric" to increase his influence and credibility with his racist audience. According to Turner's testimony, as they sat together at a New Jersey diner, his F.B.I. agent handlers told Turner that they wanted his help identifying a killer, whom they believed to be a member of a white supremacist organization. Turner had a devoted following among such boneheads, Klansmen, nazis and anti-immigrant racists because of the inflammatory racial views he espoused on his program. The F.B.I. made a suggestion: "Ratchet up the rhetoric," according to Turner, who immediately obliged.

That afternoon he posted a picture of a judge, Joan Humphrey Lefkow of Federal District Court in Chicago, whose family had just been murdered, on his blog below the headline "Gotcha!" He later appeared on television twice to discuss the case -- for which he claims the F.B.I. paid him -- both times declaring that Judge Lefkow was "worthy of death." Turner's testimony was apparently convincing enough that he got a second hung jury on the federal charges of threatening still other judges on a later Internet broadcast, this time 9-3 for acquittal.

Assistant U.S. Attorney William Hogan asked the court to gag Turner and his attorneys from speaking to the media and also asked the court to shut down a "Family of Hal Turner" blog. The judge instructed defense attorneys to stop talking to the media, but he declined to order Turner's blog shut down. In his testimony, Turner claimed to be totally fraudulent in his blog and webcast.

He claimed to be repelled by the racist views he expressed even as he became one of the most prominent proponents of racism in the US. Turner claimed he had never wanted anyone to get hurt. Turner portrayed himself as a "patriot" who "answered the call" of the feds to infiltrate the white supremacist movement. He supposedly received more than $100,000 in payments for his role, and claims that he helped avert "more than 10 acts of domestic terrorism." But the F.B.I. eventually stopped using him, and he was later arrested. Turner testified he had never believed the message he promulgated, citing a letter he wrote to one F.B.I. agent that said, "Just be confident that the person you hear [or hear about] on radio is not real life."

Turner faces a third trial in April on the charge of threatening to murder federal judges. He spent 119 days behind bars and his income (apparently mostly from the FBI) dried up. He has recently filed for bankruptcy, claiming no assets and debts of almost $100,000. After the second mistrial, he dismissed his lawyers. Judge Donald E. Walter ruled that Turner was indigent and appointed Peter Kirchheimer, the chief federal public defender in Brooklyn district where Turner is being tried, to represent Turner going forward. Kirchheimer wants a postponement from the April 12 trial date by at least a month to allow him more time to prepare a defense. "We've made no decisions and have no comment at this point," he said. Meanwhile, Turner has been getting coverage in corporate media, including the Wall Street Journal and a crew from CBS's Sixty Minutes show.

Free the Scott Sisters Wrongly Convicted In Dire Health Situation

by Afrosphere Action Coalition
Contact: Marpessa Kupendua of the Committee to Free the Scott Sisters at nattyreb@gmail.com

On December 24, 1993, the Scott County Sheriff's Department arrested Jamie and Gladys Scott for armed robbery even though three young males, ranging from ages 14 to 18, confessed to committing the crime and the women have unwaveringly maintained their complete innocence. Despite this, the corrupt Mississippi sheriff used coercion, threats, and harassment to compel the young men to turn state's evidence against the Scott Sisters due to a long-standing vendetta against a family member. In 10/94 the Scott Sisters were sentenced to extraordinary double-life terms each, despite the facts that no one was harmed, neither sister had prior convictions, no weapon was ever recovered, and the amount alleged to have been taken was approximately $11.00. Even if they were guilty as charged, this sentence is completely outrageous and cruel.

Jamie Scott, who entered the prison system as a healthy young woman, is now suffering from complete kidney failure and other life-threatening medical conditions. Since January, 2010 Jamie has endured almost weekly severe health setbacks that the state has either outright refused to address or handled in a slipshod manner. Jamie has had weeks of serious infections that could have taken her life, has gone into shock, been given sporadic dialysis treatments, and suffered the state's refusal to provide her with adequate nutrition as required for her serious medical condition.

The Scott Sisters are now in their 16th year of incarceration and their five children and grandchildren are being raised by their now ailing mother. The defendants and their family are wholly dependent on support from the press, organizations, and all those dedicated to justice in making this debacle as public as possible. The lengthy incarceration of these women to date and their draconian sentences are completely shocking and must be challenged, enough is enough!

Mrs. Rasco and Afrosphere Bloggers are calling on the public to press the governor's office to pardon the Scott Sisters and release them, particularly Jamie who needs to be at home with her family during her very serious illness. Please ask that the media and politicians do an investigative inquiry about this tragic situation and the outrageous case of the wrongfully convicted Scott Sisters!

CONTACT GOV. BARBOUR'S OFFICE
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EXPOSING WHAT DAVID ICKE PREACHES

Editor's Note: The bankruptcy of liberalism and the reformist "left" has prompted many so-called progressives to flirt with right-wing and anti-semitic propagandists who appear to offer a radical alternative to the mainstream. Once described as the "socialism of fools," anti-semitism is now the anti-imperialism of knaves. A major figure in these circles is author and huckster David Icke, who charges top dollar for admission to his roadshows. We are printing excerpts from Icke's own work to expose his hateful and nonsensical claptrap.

Quotes from David Icke compiled by Will Offley from Icke's 1995 book "...and the truth shall set you free," self-published by Icke after his regular publisher refused to print it. "In the late 1800's, a controversial document came to light called the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion". I call them the Illuminati Protocols, and I quote many extracts from them. Some say they were a forgery made public only to discredit Jews, and I use the term "Illuminati Protocols" to get away from the Jewish emphasis. If they were a forgery, something that is quite possible, what were they a forgery of, and by whom?"

"I strongly believe that a small Jewish clique which has contempt for the mass of Jewish people worked with non-Jews to create the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the Second World War. This Jewish/non-Jewish Elite used the First World War to secure the Balfour Declaration and the principle of the Jewish State of Israel (for which, given the genetic history of most Jewish people, there is absolutely no justification on historical grounds or any other). They then dominated the Versailles Conference and created the circumstances which made World War II inevitable. They financed Hitler to power in 1933."

"My use of extracts from the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" was too much for political purity to take. It didn't matter that I had emphasized, as I do in this book, that this is not a plot by Jewish people; it didn't matter that these Protocols, which came to light in the late 1800's, contain details of the very plan of manipulation which has provably unfolded through the twentieth century."

"The same attitude, today sees people vilified and jailed for questioning the official versions of the Holocaust in Nazi Germany. If you do that, no one listens to the evidence. If people want to believe all those who question the official line are Nazis and apologists for the Hitler regime, they must go ahead."

"The Talmud, the Jewish book of law, contains among other little gems, the following: "Just the Jews are humans, the non-Jews are no humans, but cattle" (Kerithuth 6b, page 78, Jebhammoth 61); "The non-Jews have been created to serve the Jews as Slaves" (Midrasch Talpioth 225). [Note: these 'quotes' are falsifications, the citations non-existent.] So how often do "anti-racists" protest at Talmudic events? Never. Exactly."

Icke contends the world is run by an Illuminati conspiracy of blood-sucking, child-sacrificing Satanists and direct genetic descendants of a race of transdimensional shape-shifting alien reptiles. "It's funny that since I began writing and speaking about reptilian bloodlines running the world, which, according to the mainstream and many conspiracy "researchers", is apparently ridiculous, you would have expected the opposition to my work to subside.... BUT HOW FUNNY! THE OPPOSITE HAS HAPPENED. SINCE I BEGAN TALKING ABOUT THE REPTILIAN CONNECTION, THE OPPOSITION HAS BEEN INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY. WHY?" From Illuminati Onslaught Against David Icke In Canada!, David Icke E-Magazine Special Report, October 8, 1999, emphasis in original.

Icke is no anti-Zionist, and the "Protocols" are not about Zionism, but attack revolutionaries as dupes of Jews who secretly run the world. This scape-goating and hate-mongering is designed to protect the real ruling elite, and the political, social and economic system of colonialism, imperialism and capitalism.

Grassroots KPFK: Radio for All

Who we are and what we stand for:

We are community activists for peace, human rights and social, labor, economic, and environmental justice, running a campaign for seats on the elected Local Station Board of listener-sponsored KPFK, 90.7 FM (98.7 in Santa Barbara). Although we have varying political affiliations and perspectives, we have united around the following principles.

For Peace with Justice
Implement the core progressive values of the Pacifica Mission: voices not commonly heard in the mainstream media.

For Migrant Rights
Oppose anti-immigrant hysteria, raids, racism and repression.

For Defense of the Earth, Animals, and the Environment
Respect for all living beings and a sustainable relationship with the rest of the natural world, in alliance with indigenous peoples' struggles locally and globally.

For Gender Equity
Support the rights of women and the LGBTQ community worldwide.

For Workers' Rights
Our strength is in our alliances and that is why we proudly align ourselves with working men and women and their unions.

For Unity, Diversity, and Our Communities
Local, diverse, multilingual, and multi-generational voices, high quality broadcasts of performing arts, public affairs, and news from and for our communities.

For All Our Listeners
Spanish language, bilingual and intra-lingual programs to bring progressive messages to Spanish-speaking communities and to bring their issues to English-speaking listeners as well.

For Southern California
Greater autonomy and local decision-making, harnessing local resources and addressing local needs for our radio station, including restoring locally produced daily newscasts and developing news and radio production training programs.

For the Pacifica Network
Leverage our progressive base in the spirit of solidarity with all Pacifica stations and affiliates, to strengthen our capacity to shape public discourse and bring issues before the public.

For Accountability to Listener Supporters
Fiscally transparent, responsible, and self-sustaining best practice non-profit management: people, not corporate underwriters, supporting progressive people's radio.

For Openness to All on the Air, in the Streets and within the Pacifica Foundation
Effective, participatory governance that is accountable to listener-sponsors and responsive to the diverse needs and interests of the Southern California listeners and communities. The station and its activities must be fully accessible to people with disabilities.

For High Quality Programming that Attracts New Listeners
More community based and collectively produced programs that inspire, educate, delight and inform, at the intersection of social possibility with political and cultural power, to help carry the Pacifica mission forward into current and future generations.

We are in the process of putting together a diverse slate of candidates for the KPFK local station board (LSB) pledged to this common campaign platform and to an ongoing effort to restore and extend grassroots accountability, creativity and effectiveness at KPFK 90.7/98.7 FM and at the Pacifica network. For more information, contact: grassrootskpfk@gmail.com 310-512-7959 www.grassrootskpfk.net POB 34782, LA 90034

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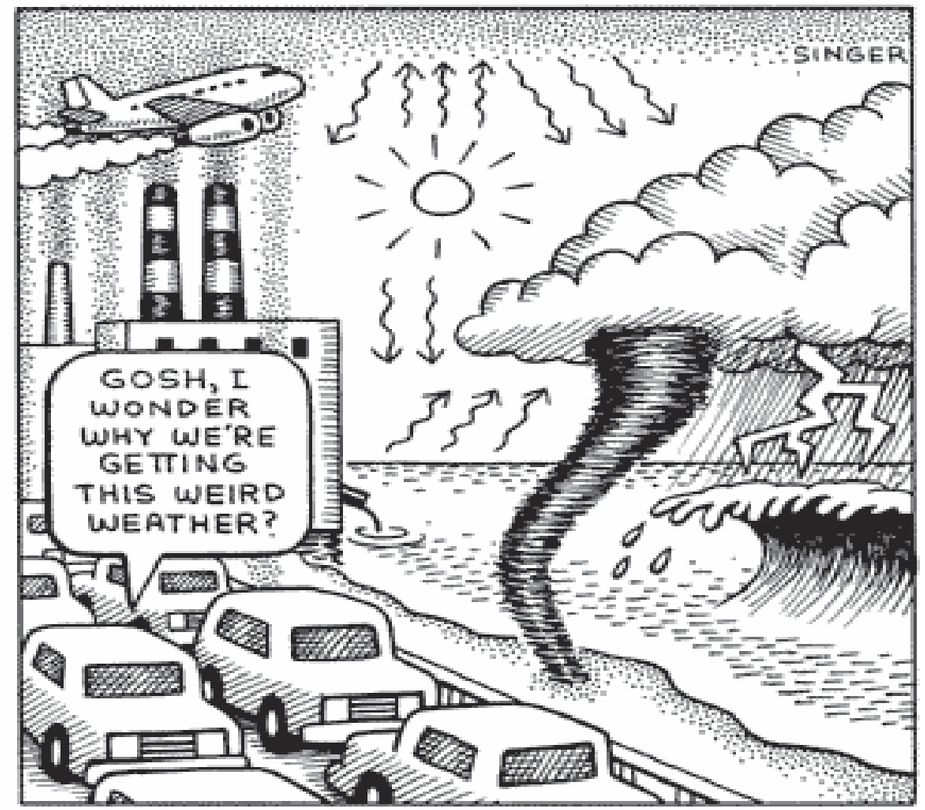

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PART's PERSPECTIVES:

On Rand Paul, Tea Parties, and the White Supremacist Roots of Private Enterprise and Privatization

by Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror ***(ARA-LA/PART)***

The victory of Tea Party and militia supporter Rand Paul as Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate in Kentucky signaled the mainstreaming of allegedly 'anti-establishment' right wing forces. It also prompted a lot of liberal and conservative attention to Paul's support of private property rights against government, because of his "philosophizing" that the section of the Civil Rights Act which prohibits racial discrimination at restaurants and hotels violated the "free speech" rights of private business owners.

Rand Paul and his supporters claimed he was misrepresented. He wrote, "I was asked if I supported the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I stated that 'I like the Civil Rights Act in the sense that it ended discrimination in all public domains, and I'm all in favor of that.' In response, the interviewer asked me about private domains, and I did what typical candidates don't - I discussed some philosophical issues with government mandating rules on private businesses. I think the federal government has often gone too far in regulating private citizens and businesses." He claims that he was simply displaying atypical honesty. But these words make clear that Paul was simply using the same weasel code words of "private property rights' and 'state's rights' that were widely used at the time of the original debates over civil rights to defend racial segregation and de facto US apartheid. Paul specifically explains that "private clubs" restrict membership on a racial basis, which he says is "abhorrent" but protected.

What this really exposes is the covert white supremacy inherent in private enterprise and in the privatization of public institutions in the US. For example, in the wake of *Brown v. Board of Education* finding racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional, there was massive 'white flight' into private schools and suburban school districts. Ever since, through vouchers and charter schools, there has been an ongoing effort to divert public tax funding for education into private hands. This has been paralleled, after the rebellions of the 60s, by the flight of private industry and capital (again with tax subsidies) from the inner cities of the north and midwest and the segregated old Confederate states of the US South into the global south. The bitter consequences of these publicly supported private policies can be seen in the destruction and depopulation of Detroit and New Orleans. We see it in LA, where Black and Mexicano families are being seduced by for-profit schools to escape the devastation of public schools starved by privatization and racist budget cutting. We see it in Rand Paul's adopted region, where Tennessee's Corrections Corporation of America is the largest private provider of incarceration "services" to federal, state and local governments overwhelmed by mass imprisonment. Private prisons, police, schools and even armies and spies (like Blackwater) are the final culmination of the privatization of land and the creation of corporations as the original instruments of empire building.

But Paul is blind to these realities of racism and colonialism in present day USA. He writes in his own defense, "In 2010, there are battles that need to be fought, and they have nothing to do with race or discrimination, but rather the rights of people to be free from a nanny state. For example, I am opposed to the government telling restaurant owners that they cannot allow smoking in their establishments. I believe we as consumers can choose whether to patronize a smoke-filled restaurant or do business with a smoke-free option." He compares denying business owners the "right" to exclude Black people to forcing them to allow in people carrying guns. He goes on, "Now the media is twisting my small government message, making me out to be a crusader for repeal of the Americans for Disabilities Act and The Fair Housing Act. Again, this is patently untrue. I have simply pointed out areas within these broad federal laws that have financially burdened many smaller businesses. For example, should a small business in a two-story building have to put in a costly elevator, even if it threatens their economic viability? Wouldn't it be better to allow that business to give a handicapped employee a ground floor office? We need more businesses and jobs, not fewer."

First, Paul is perpetuating a lie about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), which would NOT require a small business in a 2-story building to install an elevator. Second, it was Rand Paul himself who raised the issue of the ADA, seeking to explain or justify his opposition to the Civil Rights Act restriction on private businesses by making a parallel to an area he felt would have less support than racial equity. People 'shocked' at Paul's defense of BP against government 'bullying' seemed to buy this subterfuge.

Paul may have accurately measured the opposition to equal rights and access for people with disabilities. Commentary from liberal and left sources focused much more strongly on Paul's arguments against the Civil Rights Act provisions or for BP than his remarks about the ADA. Ironically, in Detroit where the genocidal impact of the privatization and private property rights that Paul champions are most evident, the recent US Social Forum was oblivious of or hostile to the need for accommodations and access for people with disabilities. As Ryan Alley, an activist from CSU Fullerton wrote: "How can 20,000 'activists' talk about liberation in a space with no accessibility or polygender bathrooms? Others get free shuttles and enter the front of the building via grand staircase. We pay to take the bus downtown, enter through a dark hidden alley and discover that the workshop we wanted to attend was moved to ...another (inaccessible) building. Then we fight for the third day in a row to find a place to pee..." In response to struggles raised about the lack of accessibility, conference organizers emailed back that people who had an interest in that should organize a caucus on the topic and make a presentation. It is outrageous for the "left" to be more backward on this issue than the state, the churches or even the bourgeoisie. Left blindness on, or outright hostility towards, affirmative inclusivity for people with disabilities is unconscionable and inexcusable, in an era when disability is growing exponentially due to war, corporate industrialism, environmental degradation and privatized medical care. What does it say about the left if a disabled soldier has better chances of accommodation by the Pentagon, or a disabled prisoner has a better chance of accommodation from the Bureau of Prisons, than a disabled activist has of accommodation and access to progressive or left activities and organizations?

DEBRIEFING THE APRIL 17TH 'NO NAZIS IN L.A.' COALITION:

Militant Mass Protest Defends Human Rights & Liberation, Deals Setback to National Socialist Movement, Cops

On April 17, the *No Nazis in L.A. Coalition*, initiated by the Black Riders Liberation Party and Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror, dealt a serious setback to the National Socialist Movement (NSM), one of the largest and oldest openly Nazi outfits in the US. We helped mobilize thousands of counter-demonstrators who surrounded and impeded the NSM rally on the south lawn of Los Angeles City Hall. The Nazis and their police protectors were met with people's righteous anger as the NSM tried to slink off under police cover after the rally ended.

The non-permitted counter-demo united diverse opponents of racism and fascism. The BRLP mobilized broadly and deeply in the Black community in particular, calling for a one-day truce among the sets and street organizations like the Crips and the Bloods, to confront the real enemies of the Black community. As a result, there was a much more significant participation of Black people than is normally seen at downtown rallies. But other communities were also represented within Coalition and also responded to the call. This included many young Mexicanos, Central Americans and other indigenous people, Asians including contingents from BAYAN-USA, a Filipino group, an LGBTQ contingent, and people of European descent including from ARA-LA and Phoenix ARA, AWARE-LA and Anti-Racist Inland Empire. Labor activists were involved in the coalition, and present at the counter-demonstration. Coalition efforts to alert the Jewish community to the threats posed by the neo-Nazis right after a commemoration of Hitler's genocide against European Jewry helped bring out Jewish anti-nazis as well. We defended and reach out to the disabled. We drew international coverage for our size, militance and diversity.

There were other successes besides the counter-demonstration itself. We succeeded in preventing the NSM from linking up with other local racist and fascist forces. Immediately after the protest, police cracked on a white power street gang in the Inland Empire area, who had apparently been involved in ambush attacks on local police as well as anti-immigrant violence and street organizing. But these elements did not show up in L.A. or unite with the NSM, which had been seeking to incorporate them. Neither did the old-line Holocaust deniers of Orange County, who had their own activity with Canadian white supremacist Paul Fromm (which we learned about too late to counter), but who stayed away from the NSM.

The *No Nazis in L.A. Coalition* also established three key political points. We said that the basis of unity for opposing the Nazis had to be supporting human rights and liberation struggles, that we would not accept police 'pens,' and that the police and the state are part of the problem. The diversity and banners of the crowd were a testament to the embrace of our first point of unity, and the anger and fire directed at the cops along with the Nazis demonstrated the validity of the third. In this context, the BRLP in particular felt their participation paid tremendous political dividends in the base of their organization in the Black community and their efforts for building a truce and revolutionary consciousness among Black youth. There was also significant participation by the predominantly Black downtown homeless community, which had participated in building the coalition. Also as a result of our stance, he police were not able to require permits or set up the kind of metal pens and roadblocks that they had at previous NSM rallies in Riverside. So people could physically confront the Nazis and the cops unhindered.

There were weaknesses in the anti-nazi effort that should be acknowledged. First, many "left" groups basically refused to unite with the leadership of the Black Riders and the unity of supporting human rights and liberation in opposing fascism. Thus, many groups organized independently and separately, including ANSWER, the FSP, RCP, ISO, Progressive Labor, and the Spartacists. On the day of the counter-demonstration, this manifested itself in a variety of separate contingents each posting up with their own sound system and chants. This interfered with the *No-Nazis* plan to maintain a moving picket line to outflank the cops and Nazis and enjoy the widest possible freedom of movement.

We had a related internal weakness, as the composing contingents of the constituent organizations that made up the Coalition, including BRLP, ARA, BAYAN, Southern California Immigration Coalition, IWW and other grassroots groups also tended to break out into separate segments, rather than staying together to provide a dynamic, moving leadership to the rally. As a result, we were not able to maintain the mobile picket line that we first established. As the crowd swelled, the police were able to close off two side streets with tape and thereby hem the counter-demonstrators in, so as to escort in the Nazis. Without dynamic leadership, the counter-demonstration became more of a crowd scene, swarming as any Nazis appeared (including one man with Nazi tats, apparently homeless, who proceeded directly out of the new LA police HQ across the street and into the crowd, where he got smacked down.) The Coalition couldn't raise funds or accumulate contact information from participants in order to maintain an ongoing relationship.

Overall, the April 17 mobilization was a success, and an embarrassment to the NSM. This was mitigated some weeks later when a group called So-Cal Anti-fa, not affiliated with ARA , was able to track down the NSM to their home/headquarters in Riverside. Ignoring efforts to contact them and develop a more strategic approach, they organized a poorly attended confrontation with the Nazis on the day of the NSM meeting, which they gave advance public notice of. Forewarned, the NSM outnumbered them, and posted you-tube videos of themselves chasing off anti-fascists (whom they falsely identified as ARA) and challenging two Brown Beret elders to "debate." Better and more strategic use should have been made of such successful intelligence gathering. Hopefully future efforts will deal the NSM further setbacks.-- ***MN, ARA-LA/PART***

Queers Against Israeli Apartheid Refuse to be Silenced

by Savannah Garmon, ***The Electronic Intifada***, July 2010

On the morning of May 25, the Board of ***Pride Toronto*** held a press conference on the lawn outside its offices to announce that the phrase "Israeli Apartheid" would be censored from the upcoming 2010 Pride Parade. The decision, aimed at banning the Toronto-based activist group Queers Against Israeli Apartheid from the parade, set off a firestorm in the community, including refusals to participate in the festival and an open letter denouncing the decision by eight founders who organized the first Toronto Pride parade in 1981.

The attempt to ban political speech at Pride Toronto fits a clear pattern -- Israel's public relations machine has attempted to malign critics and silence dissent around the world for decades. And these attempts have recently reached new heights in Canada, in response to the success that Palestine solidarity activists in Canada have achieved in recent years.

The first Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) -- now an annual, international political gathering -- was held on the University of Toronto campus in 2005. The organizers of IAW have endorsed the call by Palestinian civil society for boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law. The BDS movement is modeled on the boycott campaign that was successful in helping to bring apartheid to an end in South Africa through nonviolent means.

The apartheid analogy has put Israel and its apologists on the offensive because it has garnered unexpected levels of support through BDS and other tactics that aim to challenge Israeli state policy.

On June 2, 2009, the Canadian Parliamentary Coalition to Combat anti-Semitism (CPCCA) was formed "... for the stated purpose of confronting and combating anti-Semitism in Canada today." However, most people involved in the BDS movement saw this as a thinly-veiled smear campaign against critics of Israel. The real goal of the CPCCA seems to be to conflate all meaningful criticism of Israeli state policy with anti-Semitism -- in fact, many believe it may attempt to amend Canada's anti-discrimination laws to label criticism of Israel as hate speech.

Outright censorship is not the only means in the Israel lobby's toolkit for silencing opposition. In recent years, Israel has embarked upon a "re-branding" campaign to promote an image of itself as a modern, liberal society with open values while whitewashing its deplorable human rights record.

A key component of this campaign has been the promotion of Israel as a nation with a progressive outlook on lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) issues, especially in relation to its neighbors and Palestinian society. There is truth in this, at least for the Israeli Jewish population, but claims that this is of widespread benefit to Palestinian queers and trans people (e.g. Tel Aviv as a "gay Mecca") are unfounded. More importantly, that Israel recognizes same-sex marriages performed in other countries does nothing to excuse the humanitarian disaster that's resulted from its siege and attacks on Gaza.

It was in response to this re-branding campaign that Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA) formed. In fact, there are several members of QuAIA who also marched against South African apartheid during the 1980s in solidarity with South African anti-apartheid activist Simon Nkoli, who was a black gay man. Even then, critics disparaged their presence in the Pride parade in Toronto, pointing to relatively greater acceptance of homosexuality in the white South African community compared to blacks living under apartheid. Today, queer activists have begun to label this type of expropriation of the LGBT struggle to distract from other human rights abuses with the term "pink-washing."

QuAIA also endorses the Palestinian civil society call for BDS, and in particular a September 2009 initiative to boycott LGBT leisure tourism to Israel. This campaign was initiated in response to the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association's decision to hold a tourism conference in Tel Aviv in coordination with an Israeli LGBT group, Aguda, despite the Palestinian call for the boycott of Israel.

To challenge the re-branding campaign, QuAIA took its message to the 2008 and 2009 Pride festivals in Toronto, marching without incident. The Israel lobby responded to QuAIA's presence with outrage and initiated a smear campaign against the group. Israel lobby groups such as B'nai Brith and the Simon Wiesenthal center attempted to portray QuAIA as an anti-Semitic hate group, despite the fact that many of our members have histories of anti-racist activism and many are Jewish themselves.

After the 2009 parade, a propaganda film was made against QuAIA by a local gay Jewish lawyer and self-proclaimed "gay activist." The film was distributed to city councilors in an attempt to convince them to pass a city resolution that threatened to defund Pride Toronto unless they banned our group from marching in 2010. What followed was a complex series of events; eventually, it was revealed through a freedom of information request that a small group of city bureaucrats, councilors and pro-Israel lobbyists colluded to eject QuAIA from the Pride parade despite the fact that they were aware that QuAIA in no way violated the city's anti-discrimination policy. Nevertheless, the Board of Pride Toronto voted 4-3 to ban QuAIA, giving in to this year-long smear campaign.

The fallout from Pride Toronto's decision has been tremendous. The queer community of Toronto was galvanized to confront Pride about censorship -- after all, censorship has been previously used in Canada to force LGBT individuals back into the closet. It has also brought forward other concerns about de-politicization, corporatization and fair representation of less privileged communities within the LGBT umbrella. And after a month-long community organizing effort, Pride rescinded the ban on 26 June -- a significant victory for free speech and the Canadian Palestine solidarity movement.

In a more general sense, across North America -- and even the world -- the realization seems to be spreading in the LGBT community that our identities and our rights are being used as an excuse to deny the identity and the rights of another people, halfway across the globe.

Well before QuAIA formed, Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism has been championing the message of queer solidarity with Palestine in San Francisco. In the wake of the ban against QuAIA and the massive attention it has received, at least four new groups have formed worldwide projecting a similar message.

Further, a channel of communication has begun to develop between queer activists in Palestine and those in the Palestinian Diaspora. The two main Palestinian LGBT organizations, ASWAT and al-Qaws, have released a joint statement condemning Pride Toronto's banning of our group while a new queer Palestinian group has formed endorsing the call for BDS. In the end QuAIA invited the Palestinian director of al-Qaws to visit with QuAIA during Pride -- she will be marching with us in the upcoming parade. In light of this, the claim some in make that "the Palestine/Israel conflict has nothing to do with the queer struggle" is further deflated every day.

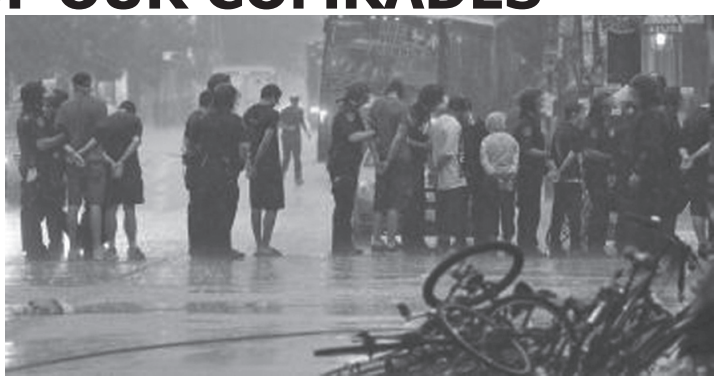
So it seems that while LGBT people in Palestine have begun speaking out both for themselves and for their people as a whole, LGBT activists in the West are starting to realize they cannot allow their struggles to be co-opted by Israel's colonization schemes. And here in Toronto, Queers Against Israeli Apartheid will not be silenced. QuAIA will march in this year's Pride Parade this Sunday, July 4, and our demand for justice for all Palestinians, queer and straight alike, will be voiced.

Savannah Garmon is an activist for transgender rights, sex worker rights and has been active with various groups in the Palestine solidarity movement since 2002. She will proudly carry a sign in Toronto's upcoming Pride Parade reading "This trans woman is against Israeli apartheid and queerer than you."

http://electronicintifada.net/v2/article11368.shtml

STATEMENT FROM THE SOUTHERN ONTARIO ANARCHIST RESISTANCE IN DEFENSE OF OUR COMRADES

This last week has been witness to some of the most powerful protests that Toronto has ever seen. We saw rallies for the environment, queer liberation, disAbility rights, indigenous sovereignty, economic and migrant justice, community power, and more. The state responded to these actions as its internal logic dictated it must. When people reached out for more control over their lives, the marginalizing state struck back with vicious force. As an institution established by violence, perpetuated by violence, and sustained by violence, its response could only be violent. Martial law descended on our city. The cops arrested anyone and everyone they chose to. The riot squad punched pacifists and stampeded demonstrators. They detained 1100 people. Our friends were locked in cages, denied food, water and toilet paper, humiliated and degraded. The officers stood by, abused and taunted, and said they were just doing their job, as do the Eichmanns of every generation.



They have targeted 20 of us, long-term community organizers, as the so-called ring leaders of the protests that they hope to scapegoat. Even this act shows how little they understand us. We have no leaders. These twenty are our teachers, friends, and mentors. And although they are invaluable to our lives, they are not SOAR. Nor are we. This anarchist network, like others, is not primarily composed of individuals, but of ideas. It is the ideas that bind us -- of the injustice of capitalism and colonialism, and the belief that a new world based on self-determination, freedom, and mutual aid is possible. That is why they can spend a billion dollars on the biggest jails, and the fascist police force, but they can never stamp out our movement. They cannot erase us, because our ideas cannot be destroyed and because we revolutionaries are the inevitable outgrowth of a society that is fundamentally broken. Out of the putrid manure of capitalism, flowers of resistance inevitably bloom

They will try with all their might to break us. But we cannot be broken. Our comrades stay strong in prison and we will not be disheartened. As long as a single one of us remains free under the sky, our voices and our songs and our fists will be raised in defiance.
We are not the first anarchists to be targeted by the state. We remember Haymarket. We remember Sacco and Vanzetti. We recognize the continued attacks on all anti-authoritarians, particularly our indigenous brothers and sisters who face the colonial monster every single day. Yet at the same time we recognize that they attack us because they fear us. They have to imprison us because we are building freedom in our communities. They have to slander us because they know we speak the truth. And so despite the rhetoric of the politicians and the apologetics of the academics, the brutal police response to the protests makes one thing crystal clear: we are winning. Every day our movement grows. Every day people are awakening to the brutal structural violence upon which liberal democracy rests. Every day people are coming to reject the deadening tyranny of hierarchy that rules their lives. Every day people are coming to recognize the fences and the borders that imprison us all, and their voices are joining ours in saying NO MORE!
Our comrades have been targeted for obvious political reasons and are being held on bullshit charges. The â€œjusticeâ€ system integral to state power is fundamentally illegitimate and we will not leave our brothers and sisters to fight it alone. And so we will struggle and organize until they are free. We are calling on anarchists and anti-authoritarians everywhere to support us.
We will support our friends and comrades to our last breath, and show the world that our solidarity is stronger than their terror.

Free them now! No one is free until every person is free!
All the power to the people! FK THE POLICE!**
The Southern Ontario Anarchist Resistance

Announcing the 16th Annual Anti-Racist Action Network Conference
July 22-25, Portland, Oregon

Rose City Antifa is pleased to announce that we will be hosting the 16th annual Anti-Racist Action (ARA) Network Conference in Portland, Oregon from July 22 to the 25, 2010. The conference will include ARA's annual plenary, caucuses, and discussion on current issues facing antifascists. We are also organizing several workshops and social events that will be open to non-members. We hope all ARA members as well as other anti-fascists who agree with our four Points of Unity will join us in July!

Public workshops will be held on a wide range of subjects including:

-The Far Right and the Ecology Movement
-Anti-Semitism and Holocaust-Denial
-White Supremacy and the Police
-Anti-Racist Organizing in Rural Communities
-Left-wing Anti-Semitism and Left/Right Overlap
-Anti-Fascist History
-And several more…

Check out our web-site —- rosecityantifa.org —- over the next month for updated information regarding location, schedule, and public events.

Please note that only Network-affiliated chapters will be allowed to attend internal plenary sessions. If you are a part of a non-affiliated chapter or collective that wants to become affiliated with the ARA Network, please contact the organizers to receive registration materials. All friends of ARA are welcome and encouraged to participate during the rest of the weekend. We hope that you will come and add your voice to the movement!

If you are new to anti-fascism, please come and learn from our experience and help us open our eyes to new possibilities.

If you are a former member of the Anti-Racist Action Network, please come and get back in touch with us.

If you're an unaffiliated chapter, come to the conference, meet other antifas and take the opportunity to learn more about ARA and the benefits of joining the Network.

Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to join us in Portland for our annual conference!

In solidarity,
Rose City Antifa, the Portland chapter of the ARA Network

Contact: fight_them_back@riseup.net
Anti-Racist Action Network website: antiracistaction.org
Rose City Antifa website: rosecityantifa.org

http://rosecityantifa.org/1/post/2010/06/announcing-the-16th-annual-anti-racist-action-network-conference-july-22nd-25th-2010-portland-oregon.html

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK 4 POINTS OF UNITY:

1. We go where they go: Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the Nazis have the street!

2. We don't rely on the cops or courts to do our work for us: This doesn't mean we never go to court. But we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3. Non-Sectarian defense of other Anti-Fascists: In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4. We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. **We want a classless free society. WE INTEND TO WIN!**

July 31st, 2010: Call to Action Against Racism and Fascism

During the early morning hours of March 27th, a Portland, Oregon anti-racist activist was shot in what appears to have been a well-orchestrated attack. It is suspected that the attackers were members of the neo- Nazi movement. The victim is a member of the anti-racist skinhead movement, a son, a friend and has dedicated the past ten years of his life to fighting white supremacist organizing.

The Portland Police Department has suggested that the shooting is "gang related." Already facing mass protests over numerous recent cases of police brutality and murder, the police treatment of this case is not surprising, and fits into a pattern of downplaying racist violence while targeting anti-racist activists.

Although police and politicians attempt to portray cities like Portland as welcoming safe places, Portland and the Pacific Northwest has a violent and dangerous history. For 30 years Portland and the surrounding region has been targeted by white supremacist and neo-Nazi movements. Groups like White Aryan Resistance (WAR) and Aryan Nations waged an ongoing and underground campaign to both recruit young whites and to terrorize people of color, GLBTQ people, and others who were seen as enemies of their racist order. The 1980's were an especially violent period, in which neo-Nazi boneheads with ties to WAR beat Ethiopian immigrant Mulugeta Seraw to death.

But this racist terror has not gone unopposed. Coalitions of anti-racist youths, militants from the LGBTQ communities, and individuals fighting for justice and dignity organized to beat back the racists and neo-Nazis. This organizing was often opposed and criminalized by the authorities, who sought to disrupt independent antifascist organizing. This situation led organizers to rely on themselves and their own communities.

The organizing by anti-fascists in Portland was a positive example and has been part of a broader, longterm campaign across the country. From NYC to LA, from Minneapolis to New Orleans, there is a history of peoples organizing both to defend themselves against racist terror, as well as to come together to build multi-racial coalitions to discuss and plan forms of action to address conflicts and crisis in our various communities.

THE SHOOTING IN THE CONTEXT OF GROWNG REACTION

The March 27th shooting occurred within a backdrop of growing Right wing, racist, and emerging fascist organizing and activity. There has been a dramatic escalation of rhetoric and action from the broad Right. While all sectors of the working classes and poor face economic and social uncertainty, the racists, the Right wing, and the smaller but significant sections of the neo-Nazi and fascist movements are looking to divide our class and peoples. Where there should be united class anger against a system that is continually grinding people down, the Right openly demonstrates its contempt and hatred for our people. Fascists and neo-Nazis are looking for these moments of division in which they can move in, recruit, and carry out their own organizing.

CALL TO ACTION:

We propose Saturday July 31, 2010 as a Call to Action Against Racism and Fascism. We want to use the Call to Action to engage both the broad independent, and the radical antiracist/anti-fascist movements.

We want mass and varied forms of protest and action. These actions can range from: music and DJ shows; educational events; outings of known Right and fascist organizers; street protest; immigrant solidarity and anti-minuteman action; and so on. While we want collaboration and coordination when possible, we also want to maximize the impact of this Call to Action, and thus argue for the greatest degree of creativity and initiative.

We encourage individuals and organizations to determine what best works in their localities. We support the incorporation of any existing and ongoing anti-racist and anti-fascist action into this Call to Action and picture the Call as a way to bolster already active organizing.

To reiterate, we argue for a maximum of creative and independent initiative and ask only that a) individuals and organizations endorse the call; and b) any public actions and events in response to the Call be promoted. We would not necessarily seek to publish details of planned actions unless requested to do so.

We want to use the Call to Action as a means to increase collaboration between our forces and work in a popular manner to highlight the need for a mass, radical response to racist and fascist organizing.

ENDORSERS:

Anti Racist Action - Central Texas
Anti-Racist Action - Kent, OH
Anti Racist Action - Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)
Anti Racist Action - Portland/Rose City Antifascists
Anti-Racist Action - Trenton, NJ
Bring the Ruckus!
Common Cause - Ontario, Canada
First of May Anarchist Alliance
Four Star Anarchist Organization
Iron Rail Infoshop (New Orleans, LA)
Kersplebedeb
Red & Anarchist Skinheads (RASH) – Northeast
Solidarity & Defense
Wild Rose Collective
Workers Solidarity Alliance

Endorse the call: Email: july31.antifa@gmail.com. For more information see july31antifa.blogspot.com. The Call to Action is available in French and Spanish from that website.

Portland-Based Nazis Export Hate

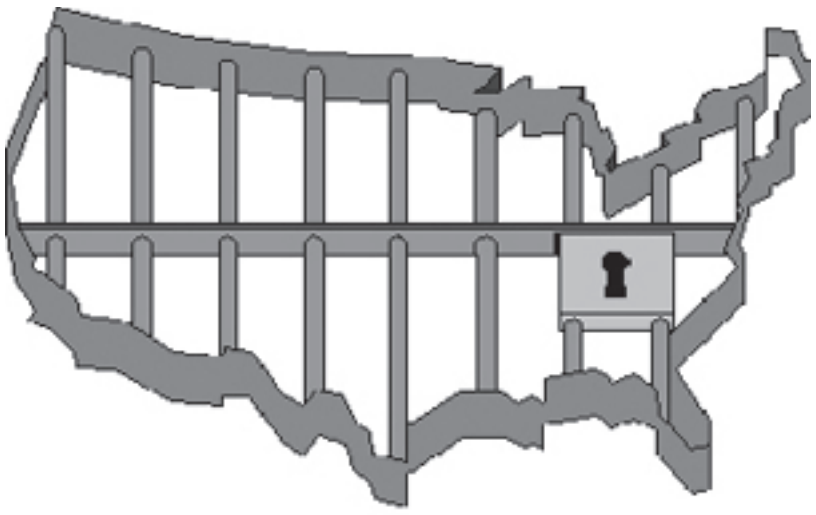
Independence Day weekend, members of the neo-Nazi "Blood & Honour American Division" (B&H/AD) are gathering near Omaha, Neb. Blood & Honour is a neo-Nazi network originally founded in 1987 in England by racist singer Ian Stuart Donaldson of Skrewdriver, which has now become international. In North America, there are two competing B&H franchises, of which Blood & Honour American Division surfaced in 2005 through the efforts of Volksfront, a white supremacist group founded in Oregon. Volksfront remains the guiding force within B&H/AD, though others such as White Revolution and American Front also participate. West Coast neo-Nazis are expected at the Omaha gathering, which is intimately linked to Oregon neo-Nazi activity. The email address used to promote the gathering is bloodandhonour_oregon@yahoo.com. Chad Bostwick, one of the event organizers and a member of the racist rock group Enforcer is a Volksfront prospect who was in Oregon until moving to Nebraska and "gearing up for the July event." Enforcer is playing Omaha along other white power acts. "DaughteroftheKingdom" posts on the neo-Nazi Stormfront website her excitement about the Omaha B&H/AD event. "DaughteroftheKingdom" is Abbie Krager, nee Chelf, the wife of Volksfront head Randal Krager. Abbie has been living in Omaha, after she and her husband left the Lakeland, FL property of Nazi family friend Mike Lawrence. Before that, both she and Randy were in Portland; you may remember Rose City Antifa's successful 2008 outing these two in their neighborhood. Another attendee in Omaha event is Jeffrey Jay Thomas, AKA Skinhead who participates in B&H/AD and worked with the Portland unit of the NSM. Thomas actively promoted it online, encouraging others to "road trip" to the gathering. On Friday, July 2, Rose City Antifa sent flyers to 200 neighbors around Thomas' home address of apartment #416 in the Sally McCracken Building, 532 NW Everett, alerting them to their Nazi neighbor. Thomas was videotaped carrying an NSM swastika with Portland NSM leader Corinna Burt at a neo-Nazi march in Phoenix, AZ last Nov. 7, in support of anti-immigrant SB1070. NSM member J.T. Ready, who spoke at the rally has been patrolling the desert of Pinal County--on the Mexico border, where he was quoted: "What happens in the desert stays in the desert. There's a lot of unmarked graves out there waiting to get filled." The NSM has also used the anti-Semitic Pacifica Forum in Eugene, OR to spread its propaganda. Pacifica Forum regular Jimmy Marr is closely aligned with the NSM. A photo from the Forum's Feb. 12 session, a talk by Marr, shows Thomas in attendance with Burt and OR NSM activist James Ward. Marr also travels to support the NSM--he was present at an April NSM rally in Phoenix and was a keynote speaker after the Apr. 17 NSM rally in LA.The NSM leafleted northwest Portland around Congregation Beth Israel with flyers denying the Holocaust last September. This January, they targeted several neighborhoods with flyers denouncing the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Rose City Antifa is committed to stopping Portland's export of neo-Nazi organizers, and bigots who spread racial hatred locally. If you have information about fascist organizing in or near Portland, please contact Rose City Antifa. Our voicemail number is (971) 533 7832. You may also email fight_them_back@riseup.net.

FAST FOR FREEDOM AUGUST 6

...Because so many are starving for FREEDOM!

Group Objective: To plan and coordinate a California Prison Fast and solidarity fast, as well as a National Prison Fast, to call attention to Three Strikes and Prison Reform.

Date: Friday, August 6, 2010
Where: All 33 California State Prisons
What: One Day Fast 4 Freedom = No Dining Hall Or Sacked Meals...Water Only ...
Unless Health Restrictions Require More



Who: Prisoners, Families, Community Members, Politicians, Media And Many More To Be Recruited!

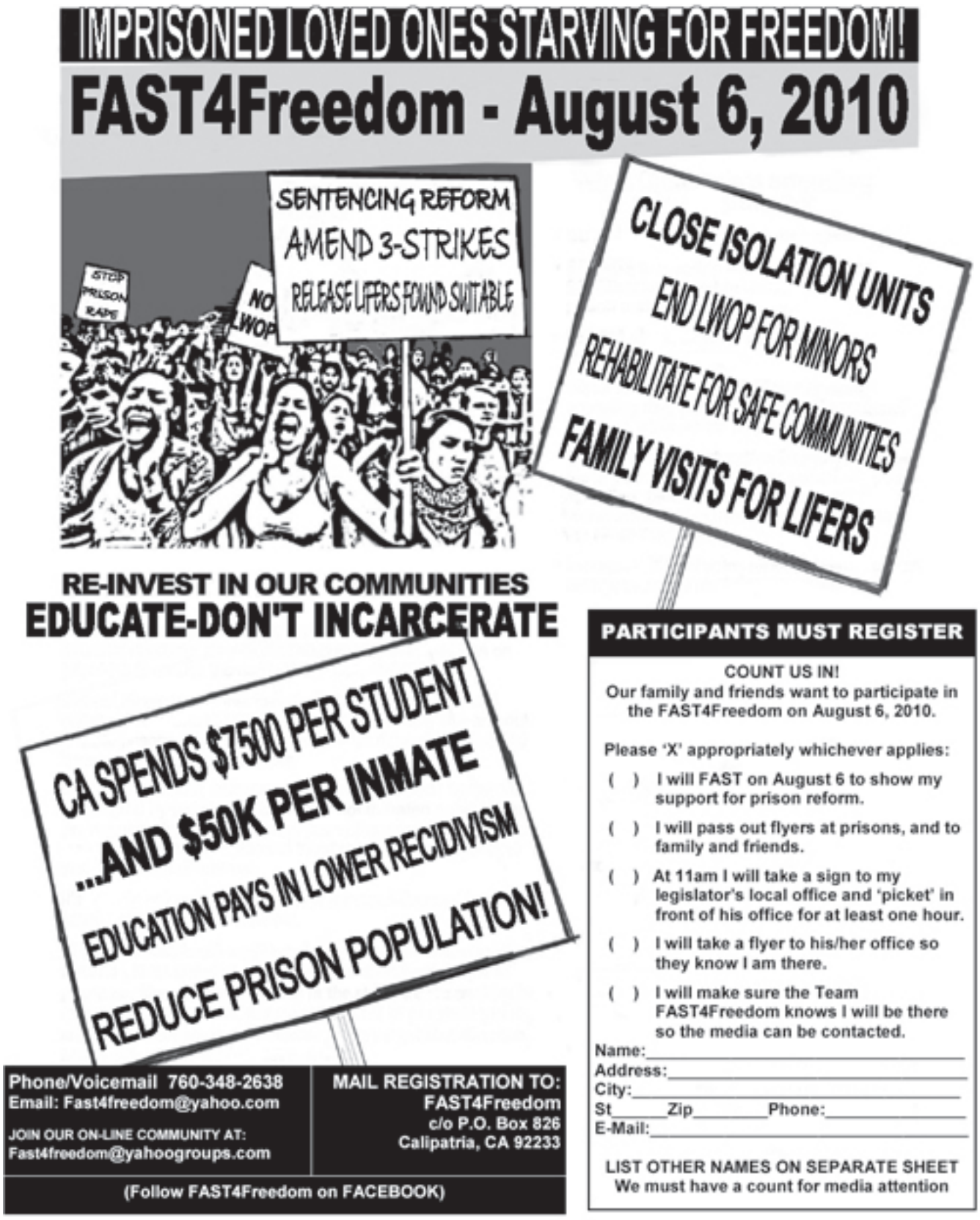
We will also be planning a national day of fast 4 freedom in the fall to call attention to the need for national prison reform.

Fast 4 Freedom ~ Mission Statement

Fast 4 Freedom is a day of fasting throughout the vast network of California prisons to remind legislators how hungry we all are for a just and equitable change in the State's approach to public safety.

Bloated by a failed policy of mass incarceration and laws such as Three Strikes and Mandatory Minimums, California's prisons are filling at a far greater rate than even history's largest prison expansion project can meet.

Too many lives are wasted in a system that refuses to utilize prevention or rehabilitation. California's problems can only be solved through proper funding of education, community resources and prevention / intervention programs. We must fund communities, not cages, and begin a true effort in maintaining public safety for all Californians.



Running Down the Walls 2010

By Lane Farnham, ABCF-LA

On Saturday, August 7 at 10 a.m., the LAAnarchist Black Cross will host a 5k run/walk/jog/bike around South Gate Park at 9615 Pinehurst Avenue, in South Gate, Los Angeles. This run/walk/jog/bike-athon is designed to raise much-needed funds for the ABCF's Warchest program, and Corazón Del Pueblo. We are attempting to reach the goal of $3,000 with the run. Funds will be divided between the two programs:

ABCF Warchest:

The ABCF Warchest program is now almost 16 years old; funds for the Warchest are divided and distributed through monthly stipends to political prisoners who receive little or no financial aid. Prisoners use this money to cover the basic necessities of everyday living. Funds have been used by prisoners to pay for stamps, shoes, clothes, as well as assisting their families with what little they can.

Corazón Del Pueblo:

Corazón del Pueblo is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit collective, and community cultural center, that promotes peace, social justice and cultural understanding thru arts, education and social action.

Official Runs:

The ABCF is a Federation of ABC chapters that span across the country and is holding two official "Running Down the Walls" runs. Both New York and Los Angeles will be holding official runs on the morning of August 7th. In synch with each other and other solidarity runs, we will collectively pound the pavement as we exhibit strength and stamina and tireless effort to free imprisoned comrades.

Solidarity Runs:

Every year, prisoners and supporters of political prisoners organize solidarity runs with Running Down the Walls. Last year, we had runs in Albuquerque, Arcata CA, Ashland OR, Bellefonte PA, Boston, Denver, Elmore AL, Inez KY, Los Angeles, Marion IL, New York, Navasota TX, Pelican Bay (CA), Phoenix, Tucson, and Toronto. We raised over $1000 for the ABCF Warchest, Romaine Chip Fitzgerald Homecoming Fund, and Ojore Lutalo's Homecoming Fund. This year we hope to expand the number of runs in prisons and other cities, and the amount of funds for community projects.

Raising Funds:

The Warchest program was created in November 1994. Its purpose is to send monthly financial support to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War (PP/POWs) who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment.

Support the Struggle:

We must remember that many of those arrested in the past or present are not far from us. Many of them were and are community and labor activists, queer, and environmental activists; people who decided to speak out against various forms of oppression and paid the price of their freedom for their actions. We must remember that anyone of these people could have at one time stood beside us in a demonstration, at a speak-out, or even at an organizing meeting. At any given moment it could be us who finds ourselves in this situation, so it is imperative that we ensure that a strong enough community of support exists for these people as well as ourselves. The strength of our movement is determined by how much we support our fallen comrades. As Anarchist former POW Ojore Lutalo says, "Any Movement that does not support its political internees, is a sham movement." So please help us, help them! Help us, help you!

Why August 7th:

We chose August 7 to 'run down the walls' to commemorate the life of revolutionary Jonathan Jackson who was killed in an attempt to free the Soledad Brothers. On August 7, 1970, Jackson brought guns into the Marin County Court house during the trial of James McClain, William Christmas, and Ruchell Magee. Jonathan Jackson demanded the release of the Soledad Brothers as he and the three prisoners took the Judge and four others hostage. As Jackson and the others entered his van in an attempt to leave, authorities fired on the van, killing Jackson, McClain, Christmas and Judge Harold Haley. Magee was injured but survived and remains in prison to this day.

We encourage people to run or otherwise raise funds for the Warchest.Send funds or $12 reg fee to the Los Angeles ABCF, PO Box 11223, Whittier, CA 90603 or to the Philadelphia ABCF, PO Box 42129, Philadelphia, PA 19101. Make checks or money orders out only to Tim Fasnacht. Contact la@abcf.net or call (323) 357-9613.

BEFORE BP

[column written 6/3/10 and (c) 2010] by Mumia Abu-Jamal

BP didn't begin as BP. Indeed, it didn't begin as British Petroleum.

In 1908, it was known as the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, and it exploited Iran's natural resources and labor ruthlessly. Majority shares of the company were owned by the British government, and Iran offered a rich yield for APOC.

In 1947, for example, the company pulled in after-tax profits of £40 million, while Iran received a mere £7 million.

The average Iranian worker, housed in huts assembled of rusted, hammered oil cans, lived in desolate oil towns, and earned about 50 cents a day.

One observer from Iran's Petroleum Institute described one such shanty town, Kaghazabad (Farsi for 'Paper City') as a place where "in every crevice hung the foul sulfurous stench of burning oil." Instead of streets, narrow alleyways existed, which the describer called "an emporium for rats." He said the town was so desolate that there was no single tree.

Is there any wonder that the government of Mohammed Mossadegh wanted to nationalize the country's oil wealth -- or that the CIA (and MI-5 -British Intelligence) assured his ouster, and imposed the dictator, the Shah?

BP plundered the country, making money, hand over fist.

Now, they are plundering American natural resources --its southern shorelines, and its matchless fishing and shrimping grounds -- and the chickens have indeed, come home to roost.

[Source: Majidi, Mazda, "Latest crime in BP's criminal history" Liberation, 6-4-10, p.7.]

Editor's note: We are printing Mumia's piece because of the urgency of the situation with the ongoing oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico, already spreading into the Caribbean and Atlantic. Obama calls it the worst environmental catastrophe in US history, but in truth, it is the US itself which is the worst environmental criminal in world history. BP is the largest supplier of oil to the Pentagon at $1billion a year. Deforestation, nuclear radiation and waste, global warming, factory farming, urban sprawl, desertification, acid rain and acidification of the oceans are all the consequences of settler colonialism and capitalism. To save the planet, smash the Empire!--*Editor*

The Power of Truth is Final -- Free Mumia! Audio of most of Mumia's essays are at:
http://www.prisonradio.org
http://mumiapodcast.libsyn.com/ Mumia's got a podcast! Subscribe at the website or on iTunes and get Mumia's radio commentaries online.
Mumia Abu-Jamal's new book -- JAILHOUSE LAWYERS: PRISONERS DEFENDING PRISONERS V. THE USA, featuring an introduction by Angela Y. Davis, is available from City Lights Books:
http://www.citylights.com/book/?GCOI=87286100448090
Please make a contribution to help free Mumia. Donations to the grassroots work will go to both INTERNATIONAL CONCERNED FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MUMIA ABU-JAMAL and the FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL COALITION (NYC) **WWW.FREEMUMIA.COM**
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People's Justice for Oscar Grant!

As ***TTT*** goes to press, the jury is still out in the murder trial of ex-BART cop Johannes Mehserle for the murder of Oscar Grant III, a young Black father and supermarket butcher. But justice has already been denied – by the change of venue from Oakland to L.A., by the refusal to indict Officer Pirone and the other cops involved in the murder and brutality, by the exclusion of Black people from the jury, and by the judge's dismissal of first degree murder charges in his instructions to the jury. The criminal injustice system is complicit in the murder of Oscar Grant by perpetuating the impunity of killer cops. We are reprinting here a commentary from the Bay Area about the machinations of the police, the mayor and their non-profit allies to prevent people's justice.—*Editor*

Politics makes strange bedfellows

by POCC Minister of Information JR

Oakland police practiced brutal crowd suppression techniques on June 18 in preparation for what they call "Operation Verdict." You can watch the full video at http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/video?id=7507500. There is an old proverb that politics makes strange bedfellows. Last year, on Jan. 7, 2009, a rebellion broke out on the streets of Oakland in response to local government not addressing the videotaped police murder of 22-year-old Black man, Oscar Grant. The day after, a coalition calling itself CAPE, the Coalition Against Police Executions, took center stage and became the media's sweethearts after the first day of rebellions.

Its main spokeswoman was Dereca Blackmon, the former executive director of *Leadership Excellence*, who has since stopped organizing on the issue and disbanded the group in the spring of 2009, according to their Facebook page, which is still in operation.

CAPE wase the pseudoactivist arm of the Dellums regime in Oakland, behind the cloak of avaricious non-profit leaders like Blackmon. One of the demands to help prevent police terrorism in Oakland that Dereca seemed to talk about in every interview was a healing center in which people could get counseling. How does that prevent police terrorism? Don't people get counseling after a traumatic incident? We're still in the midst of one of the biggest cover-ups in Oakland police history.

Another bullshit statement that was promoted by Blackmon and the non-profit sector involved in the Oscar Grant movement was that "the rebellions were caused by outsiders." When I was covering the Jan. 7 rebellion in downtown Oakland for the SF Bay View and BlockReportRadio.com, I was arrested on a bogus charge of arson, which the DA moved to dismiss 13 months later.

When I was in the streets and when I was in jail, I met many of the rebels. Most of them were from Oakland. And most of them were Black and Brown, with a few Asians and whites sprinkled in.

Why was that 'outsiders' lie propagated? It was put out so that the people in Oakland and in the world would be given the impression that the rebellions didn't have popular support. Because the reality is that although a number of Black people have been killed in high profile cases elsewhere, including Amadou Diallo, Sean Bell, Kathryn Johnston, and Michael Walker, to name a few, none of those cities went up in smoke like Oakland, CA.

Fast forward to 2010. I recently was made aware of an email that Nicole Lee of the *Urban Peace Movement*, formerly of the Ella Baker Center, sent out to her non-profit allies. Here it is in total:

"Dear Friends and Allies – (Please Forward Widely)

"As many of you know, the trial of the officer who killed Oscar Grant is currently underway in LA. The prosecution has rested their case, and the defense (Mehserle's attorney) is currently making their case. The trial has moved much faster then many had anticipated, and folks speculate that a verdict may come down in the very near future (possibly as soon as next week).

"If a 'not guilty' verdict comes down (which is a significant possibility) it will inspire widespread outrage, and many, including myself, are concerned about the potential consequences of that outrage. As someone who is BOTH committed to social justice and an end to police brutality AND a peaceful and thriving Oakland, I wanted to suggest some ways for us to proceed:

"1) Organizations, CBO's, and Public Agencies should be thinking of ways to create organized events or avenues for young people and community members to express their frustrations with the system in constructive and peaceful ways. If people have no outlets then it may be easier for folks to be pulled toward more destructive impulses.

"2) We need to begin 'innoculating' (*sic*) our bases and the community at-large so that when the verdict comes down, people are prepared for it, and so that the 'outside agitators' who were active during the initial Oscar Grant protests are not able to incite the crowd so easily.

"To be clear, our main concern is the safety and well-being of Oakland's young people. We don't want to see them get taken to jail or hurt as a result of violent or destructive behavior brought on or encouraged by 'extreme-fringe' groups coming into Oakland from the outside.

"Below are some suggested talking-points to begin engaging community members. Please forward the talking points widely amongst the staff and leaders of your organizations so we can get the message out far and wide. I have been in preliminary conversation with some of our partners an allies up to this point including the Ella Baker Center, Youth UpRising, Oakland Rising, BWOPA, The Mayor's Office and the City of Oakland regarding these suggestions. Let's continue to be in dialog and hold each other close in the challenging days ahead.

"In Peace and Solidarity,
Nicole Lee / Urban Peace Movement

"Talking Points: (General Audience) There is no question about it, violence & brutality are wrong – whether at the hands of community members or at the hands of the police. While many of us are outraged, we must find a way to move forward in peace.

"OAKLAND IS OUR HOME, and we want all Oaklanders to think carefully about how to respond, even in the face of our own anger and outrage.

"There are peaceful and constructive ways for us to demonstrate our frustration with the system, but beware of outside 'agitators' many of whom don't live in Oakland, who will try to insight (*sic*) the crowd to violence. They won't be there for you if YOU end up getting taken in by the police, and they don't have to live in the aftermath, they can just go back to their neighborhoods, far away from Oakland.

"This is a city with a rich history and a sense of pride from the East to the North to the West, and we don't back down when times get tough."

"Talking Points: (Youth Audience) There's no question – Police Brutality is wrong. We are all angry, but the question is what do we do with our anger? Do we use it constructively to make changes like the Martin and Malcolm did, or do we use it to destroy each other and our community?

" There are constructive ways to have your voice heard – join a speak-out or make music to express yourself.

" Beware of 'outside agitators' who are not from Oakland and who will try to incite violence. Oakland is OUR HOME, but it's not theirs, and so they don't care if we mess our city up. And, they won't be there for you if YOU get caught-up by the police.

" Let's not let these agitators make a bad situation worse. Instead, let's hold our heads high and throw up our fists in solidarity like Huey did!!"

What is really funny about this is that Lee is acting as if the streets listen to the non-profit and government leaders. If that were the case, the Oscar Grant justice movement would not have secured an indictment in the case of Mehserle, because there would not have been any rebellions to put the "or else" into our demands.

And another funny thing is how with her language she is trying to make people think that Black human rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Huey P. Newton would have taken her approach of working with the government against the people. Instead of evoking our freedom fighters, she should have evoked Jim Jones and J. Edgar Hoover, who were especially good at hypnotizing masses of people to serve the interests of the elite. [The elite] are preparing and telling us through the media that they have police and National Guard on standby, who are going to beat the hell out of anybody who voices opposition on the day of the verdict.

"Know your enemies, know your friends; that's the politic." – dead prez

Email POCC Minister of Information JR, *Bay View* associate editor, at blockreportradio@gmail.com and visit www.blockreportradio.com.

http://www.sfbayview.com/2010/politics-makes-strange-bedfellows/

We urge you to subscribe to the SF Bay View, a great paper!

EXPLOSIVE POLITICAL SITUATION IN PUERTO RICO

by Roberto Ramos-Perea, Puerto Rican Playwright (with the active collaboration, comments and support of more than a hundred Puerto Rican citizens.)

It is 5:00 PM, June 30, 2010. Groups of students, teachers and citizens ask for entry to the House of the Laws in San Juan. They are struck and tortured by the police. There are numerous people injured, while the National Guard is mobilized towards Capitol Hill. Violent shocks scatter through the whole zone of the Parliament and the repression continues.

A constitutional coup has just been established in Puerto Rico.

After a year in which the present government under the New Progressive Party (*Partido Nuevo Progresista*, which attempts to join the island nation to the US through statehood) tried and succeeded in taking over many institutions that form the base of the democratic government of Puerto Rico, an atmosphere of hostility has ensued. Their takeover was followed by many reckless actions that threaten public peace. These have now climaxed in violent and aggressive actions of this government against the parties of the opposition, the organized student movement, the labor unions, the press, the environment, and against every area and institution of Puerto Rican civil society.

This constitutional coup springs from the Legislative branch of the government under the command of Senator Thomas Rivera Schatz, endorsed by the central government, under the dominance of counselor Marcos Rodríguez Ema, with the obvious intent of having under their grasp and without opposition full control of every agency and organization that rule the judiciary, academic, economic and civil societies. Under this scenario, Governor Luis Fortuño operates without volition, has no opinion, appearance nor public responsibility.

With the complete control of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, the University of Puerto Rico Board of trustees, and the news media, among many others in elite hands, the genuine participation of the people of Puerto Rico in all democratic processes protected by our Constitution is jeopardized.

The events started (through the rush approval of Law 7 by the Legislature) with more than 20,000 public employee lay-offs, with the allegation that this would alleviate the 'gigantism' of the government and would solve the serious public deficit, which has never been properly evidenced. This decision has caused economic chaos; public services are worse than ever and it has generated despair and gloom in every Puerto Rican family. There's a serious persecution against all artistic institutions of the country, strangling their budgets, trying to avoid the propagation of art as dissent. Meanwhile the government favors contracts of obscene sums with hundreds of advisors, contractors and lobbyists associated with their own political party.

The attacks continued in the form of the appointment to the Supreme Court of four Judges with a well known affiliation with, and militancy for the governing political party, achieving a majority of votes in favor of the actual government on all decisions made in this Forum, on individual basis. The government went on repressing and eliminating student participation in the procedures of the University of Puerto Rico. They suppressed tuition exemption for outstanding athletes and artists, among others. This forced the students from all 11 campuses of the UPR to declare a strike that lasted 60 days, generating ample support from the people of Puerto Rico and around the world.

The students on strike were successful in achieving their demands through negotiations that involved a Court and an appointed negotiator. However, Secretary of Government Rodríguez Ema has been trying to invalidate these accords by declaring they "are not worth the paper they were written on."

To carry out this reversal, the Central government proposed a hasty law, signed with no revision within hours, adding four additional members to the Board of trustees of the University of Puerto Rico. These additions to the Board are unconditional members of the governing political party. The students of UPR, who in a great majority depend in Federal grants, now face an annual recurring fee of $800, a fee they will not be able to pay and that they will not pay, forcing the students to return to their strike. With this strategy, the Central government risks the accreditation of the State University and as a consequence, the government would be able to privatize its assets.

Following this same strategy, the government of Puerto Rico will attempt to sell and to divide for speculation a strip of land where the Karst formation is located, in the northwest of the Island. This area collects one third of our water supplies for the entire population; nonetheless, the government intends to put this area into private hands that would build a toll expressway over this ecologically and economically rich zone.

Similarly, the Puerto Rican budget was approved, together with countless laws favoring privatization, dissolving professional associations and distributing public funds into private hands, without the compulsory public participation hearings. This reached the extreme of turning off the microphones of even the opposing political party members, in a despotic fashion.

The events climaxed last week when the FBI in Puerto Rico arrested Senator Héctor Martínez, NPP, for bribery, influence peddling, and other charges. Martinez is Senator Rivera Schatz's right hand in the Senate. A public squabble between the Senator and the FBI reached the news, with the Senator defending the alleged innocence of Martínez, who has been directly associated with drug traffic and who was filmed while accepting a bribe.

Finally, the president of the Senate, Rivera Schatz, using force and a real padlock, censored media access to the Senate sessions, depriving the people of Puerto Rico of direct information about the discussions and voting sessions that were taking place about this year's budget and other matters. The events resulted in verbal and physical violence between senators, and rising indignation among the people, to a point of an almost unsustainable state of outrage and wrath.

Rivera Schatz has taken virtual control of the country with his tyrannical and fascist ways; culminating in the brutal attack on people attempting to observe the legislative proceedings directly. This factual coup d'etat of political power violates all elementary principles of democracy and of participation of the people in the government. So we proclaim to the world the current situation of contained violence that exists in our people and that is about to explode against these two politicians who have taken power in our country by assault. Even though Puerto Rico doesn't have conditions for an armed struggle of the people because of the obvious disparity of the opposing sides, a revolution of cultural and of student affirmation is starting to take the streets and to retrieve the spaces stolen away by the originators of this coup.

We exhort all communications media of the world to divulge and expose the current situation of the Puerto Rican Nation and we ask of you, therefore, your total solidarity.

For more information: Comunicados PR, PO Box 3080, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918

Boycott Arizona: Move Major League Baseball's All Star Game

By movethegame.org

Background on the Arizona Immigration Law: What it does and why it's wrong

It is a federal crime to be in the United States without a visa as a non-citizen. Arizona's new immigration law, also known as SB 1070, makes it a STATE crime to be in Arizona illegally and requires all immigrants to have proof of their immigration status.

The law also requires police to make a "reasonable attempt" to determine the status of ANYBODY whom it "reasonably suspects" may be in the US illegally. And it allows any citizen to sue the state or local governments for failing to fully comply (which would include law enforcement). Less than one week after the legislature has modified the original language to clarify that race cannot be the only factor as a justification in questioning somebody's status. But it also clarified that civil complaints (like an unmowed lawn) could trigger an investigation.

Why Target Baseball and the 2011 All-Star Game?

Major League Baseball is scheduled to host the 2011 All Star Game in Phoenix in July 2011. Other than the World Series, the All Star Game represents the most high profile and prestigious game every season in baseball.

It's been reported that as much as $60 million will be spent in the host region during the All Star Game weekend. Arizona cannot and must not profit from their discriminatory law. Furthermore, AZ is not safe for MLB's Mexicano, Dominican and other players and their families, who could be subjected to racial profiling under the new law. As reported by Patrick Saunders in the Denver Post, Michael Weiner, executive director of the the Major League Baseball Players Association, issued this statement: "We hope the law is repealed or modified promptly. If the current law goes into effect, the MLBPA will consider additional steps necessary to protect the rights and interests of our members."

White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen, never one to hold his tongue, says he would boycott the All-Star Game. Padres all-star first baseman Adrian Gonzalez told Tom Krasovic of AOL Fanhouse that he would not play in the All-Star Game if the law is in effect, and wanted major-league teams to boycott spring training next year in Arizona. "I'll support the players association 100 percent," said Gonzalez, who grew up in Tijuana and Chula Vista, a suburb south of San Diego. "If they leave it up to the players and the law is still there, I'll probably not play in the All-Star Game. Because it's a discriminating law. I know it can't be done, but they should take spring training out of (Arizona) if it's possible." Venezuelan-born Yorvit Torrealba, the former Rockies catcher who plays for the Padres, told the San Diego Union Tribune, "Why do I want to go play in a place where every time I go to a restaurant and they don't understand what I'm trying to order, they're going to ask me for ID first? That's bull. I come from a crazy country. Now Arizona seems a little bit more crazy."

There is a precedent for Arizona and sports impacting the broader political discussion. In 1987, after the newly elected governor of AZ rescinded the Martin Luther King holiday for Arizona, the NFL voted to move the Super Bowl from Arizona to the Rose Bowl in California. After Arizona voted to restore MLK day as a holiday, the NFL finally chose to host the Super Bowl in Phoenix. Similarly, when Black players in the American Football League protested racial segregation in New Orleans, which was supposed to host the AFL All Star game, they were joined in a threatened boycott by the white All Stars, including Jack Kemp, then quarterback of the AFL Buffalo Bills. The league quickly moved the game from New Orleans to Houston. We can do it again. If MLB takes a stand on behalf of its players, players' families and fans, the goal is that Arizona will revise its law in a way that does not racially profile its own citizens. You can sign the petition on-line at http://movethegame.org/sign-the-petition. Move the Game is a joint project of Presente.org, who led the campaign against CNN's Dobbs, and Fenton, a progressive public relations and communications company, at 182 Second Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 Ph: 415-901-0111.

Puerto Rican Political Prisoners – A Victory, but the Struggle Continues

by Lawrence Reyes, Puerto Rican Alliance, L.A.

July 25, so-called Constitution Day, marks the founding of the colonial "Commonwealth" of Puerto Rico by the U.S. Congress in 1952. In contrast, July 26, the day on which Puerto Rican independentista political prisoner and P.O.W. Carlos Alberto Torres will be released from prison after 29 years of incarceration in another victory for the Puerto Rican people, marks the launching of the Cuban Revolution by Fidel Castro in 1953. Join the Puerto Rican Alliance in marking these significant anniversaries and in celebrating the release of Carlos Alberto Torres. Come learn more about the continuing struggle to free the remaining Puerto Rican political prisoners and POWs, including Oscar Lopez Rivera and Avelino Gonzalez. Commemorate the cultural integrity and creativity of the Puerto Rican people and their struggle against colonial occupation and for self-determination, decolonization and independence. If you want to get involved, and learn more about the recent victories and repression in Puerto Rico in the student struggle against cutbacks at the University of Puerto Rico, attend a planning meeting on Saturday July 10, time and location To Be Announced. Contact Lawrence Reyes, alianzapr@hotmail.com for more information or if you are interested in a solidarity delegation to Chicago to greet Carlos Alberto Torres upon his release. We also urge people to immediately sign the internet petition on behalf of a furlough for Puerto Rican political prisoner and POW Oscar Lopez Rivera, to visit his seriously ill sister, at http://www.petitionspot.com/petitions/FurLoughforOscar/

Chicago timetable:

Sunday, July 25, National Boricua Human Rights Network national meeting, 10am

Monday, July 26, 2010 4am-7am Drive to Pekin IL prison to wait for the release of Carlos Alberto Torres

4-6:00 pm Public Homecoming at La Casita de Don Pedro, 2620 W. Division Street, Chicago IL

Alejandro Luis Molina, alejandrom@boricuahumanrights.org

Coordinating Committee, NBHRN

2739 W. Division Street, Chicago IL 60622

www.boricuahumanrights.org twitter: olrcat Comité Pro-Derechos Humanos www.presospoliticospuertorriquenos.org

George Jackson Freedom Summer After-School Survival Program

by Etana Shakur, *The George Jackson Freedom Summer Coalition*

"They send us to school to learn how to be disgusting. We send our children to places of learning operated by men who hate us and hate the truth. It is clear that *no school* would be better. Burn it; all the fascist literature, burn that too. Then equip yourself with the little red book. There is no other way to regain our senses.

"We must destroy Johnson Publications and the little black tabloids that mimic the fascist press even to their denunciation of black extremists. Burn them or take them over as people's collectives, and give the colonies a dynamite case of self-determination, anti-colonialism, and Mao think!!!"

– Comrade George Jackson, BPP

The Black Riders Liberation Party created the George Jackson Freedom School summer program to combat the miseducation of our youth. This is one of our new survival programs.

We think it's necessary to raise awareness about the issues that affect our communities and to educate our youth about their own cultures and histories. These are usually absent in the current educational system. The knowledge we share is essential to encourage self-empowerment, self- determination and mobilization for change.

The goals and objectives of our summer after-school program are to keep our youth off the streets by providing a safe place where they can take a break from the Matrix. Here they can learn about who they really are and their true position in the world through cultural activities, edu-tainment and alternative education.

We will also be offering free Martial Arts self-defense classes, music and dance lessons.

The program will start July 5, 2010 at Chuco's Justice Center, 1137 E. Redondo Blvd., Inglewood CA 90302 (near Florence & Crenshaw). 1-6:00 pm Monday – Friday. Bring the whole family!

All Power To The People!!

We are appealing for funds, supplies and other forms of material aid on behalf of *The George Jackson Freedom Summer Coalition* to support the 2010 Summer School program we are currently making a reality.

The George Jackson Freedom Summer Coalition is developing a youth-led summer school program in order to provide an alternative space for urban youth. Based out of Chuco's Justice Center, the *George Jackson Freedom Summer* will provide a space for organizers, artists, educators and organizations to responsibly and actively engage the youth from local middle and high schools in alternative ways.

The George Jackson Freedom Summer Coalition is a collection of students, with very modest resources, that have come together to create an summer school program from the ground up. We would appreciate your assistance in providing school/art/music/ supplies, food donations, recreational tools, books, and resources for digital media/technology. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

GEORGE JACKSON

FREEDOM SUMMER

The George Jackson Freedom Summer Coalition
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Warrior-Poet Marilyn Buck : No Wall Too Tall

by Mariann G. Wizard / Full text at http://theragblog.blogspot.com/2010/05/warrior-poet-marliyn-buck-no-wall-too.html

Marilyn Buck dared to dream of a world without racism, without American imperialism. More important, for those who dream this dream today, she dared to act. She dared to try to make this dream a reality. For her acts of selfless courage on behalf of victims of American criminal behavior, Marilyn has spent 25 years as a political prisoner of the US government.

A year ago, it looked as if Marilyn's long exile from the free world was coming to an end. After uncounted rejections, a new hearing brought a positive decision: she would be released on parole in August 2010! Supporters in the Bay Area began to raise funds for her expected transition.

She'd never talked about what she would do when -- or if -- she was released. When you're doing an 80-year sentence, you do it, as they say, "one day at a time." Suddenly she was full of questions: "What kind of computer should I get, a laptop or a desk top?" Like most prison inmates, she's never been in cyberspace. (I told her to get a smart phone for the first six months and see if she even needs a computer.) Unconvinced that digital cameras are now as good as film, the gifted photographer talked about how she might find work in a darkroom. Although she's tried hard to stay in touch with social and technological changes, it's hard to do so behind the bricks and razor wire fence, with your legs in shackles any time you're moved, restricted in every daily choice.

But she was coming out. Nothing else mattered. Then, last December, right around her 62nd birthday, she was diagnosed with a rare form of uterine cancer, a sarcoma, dangerous as a rattlesnake, potentially lethal. Another friend sent me a clinical description of the disease, but I couldn't bear to read it all the way through.

Marilyn had symptoms for months before diagnostic tests were made. But not wanting any "fuss" over herself, not wanting to worry her friends, she kept her "health issues" vague and low-key with most people she spoke to or corresponded with, while she and her lawyer tried to get medical tests done.

Health care in the federal Bureau of Prisons is not renowned for its excellence. But, as her friend Penny Schoner reminded me gently, "This is a woman who wakes up every morning thinking about the plight of women in Afghanistan and Palestine, not herself."

Marilyn had surgery in the Bay Area pretty quickly after the diagnosis was made and should have started chemotherapy six weeks later, when the surgical wounds had healed. But when she was finally admitted in mid-March to Carswell Federal Medical Center in Ft. Worth, where thousands of seriously ill federal prisoners are treated, the tests performed revealed new tumors and growths outside the original cancer site.

Now at last, the chemo has started, and she is full of hope. She has so much pent-up energy, so many dreams, desires, abilities, concerns -- so much life to live! Her experiences in America's prisons have illuminated a hundred worthwhile projects and pressing needs to which she wants to contribute, as well as a whole new world of experiences that so far she has been denied.

Marilyn was accused of sensational acts of insurrection -- including jail break, bombings, and a robbery attempt in which two police officers were shot and died. Many otherwise liberal-minded Americans are unable to get past the violence of the confrontations between the police and the small groups of Black and white revolutionaries with whom Buck was linked. Many committed leftists criticized the militants as foolhardy adventurists.

Neither gives due weight to the extraordinary repressive measures undertaken by the U.S. government to crush lawful dissent against unjust policies at home and abroad. Behind the shadow of COINTELPRO (the FBI's Counter Intelligence Program), law enforcement agencies operated outside the rule of law against Movement activists.

To be an African-American dissident, especially, meant walking around with a "shoot-to-kill" sign pinned on your chest. Being Black or Brown or Red, or even white and "hippie-looking," was to face hatred and brutality (and possible death) day and night at the hands of racist white police and their allies in the U.S. Justice Department. Marilyn Buck saw her friends being hunted down like dogs on the streets of Oakland. It may be that the murder of her friend (and my husband) George Vizard, in the summer of 1967 in Austin, by person or persons then unknown, also led to her belief that right action lay in helping victims of oppression defend themselves, as the saying went, "by any means necessary."

Part of Marilyn's story is told on a website, Friends of Marilyn Buck, http://www.marilynbuck.com/. There is a lot more to her story of activism, self-sacrifice, and achievement. But it is her story to tell, and she's not yet able to tell it -- and, until she is free, perhaps not yet able to see it whole.

ANTI-RACIST ACTIONS CALENDAR SEPT.-OCT. 2010

Sept. 25: Celebrate El Grito de Lares

Puerto Rico's 1st Declaration of Independence
4-8:00 PM 6457 Whittier Blvd., East L.A. 90022

through 9/30 Vote GrassrootsKPFK

Aryana Gladney, Lawrence Reyes, Michael Novick, Brenda Medina
Lydia Brazon, Chuck Anderson, Ron Spreistersbach for KPFK LSB

Oct. 7: Defend Public Education

Statewide and National day of Protest against Privatization,
Tuition hikes, lay-offs at UC, CSU, community college, adult & K-12

Oct. 9: Stop the Death Penalty

Oct. 11: Indigenous Peoples Day

Oct. 22-23: Stop Police Abuse Justice for Oscar Grant

TTT Editor Michael Novick will be speaking at Firestorm Books
Asheville, North Carolina

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TURNING THE TIDE

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Antifa MMA

Haiti: Agony and Courage

Street Stories

Fascism & Empire

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PART's Perspective:

Will the Real Fascist Please Stand Up? Seizing the Initiative Against the Empire

by Michael Novick, *Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror* ***(ARA-LA/PART)***

During much of the Bush regime's hold on power, many on the left were convinced it represented an incipient fascism, as its use of the Big Lie technique, glorification of militarism and trampling of rights hearkened back to the Third Reich. Simultaneously, Bush's neo-con allies propagandized about the threat of Islamo-fascism. Now, the Tea Party claims to see an identity between Obama and Hitler and to equate health insurance reform with fascism. Conversely, many on the left see Tea Party reactionary populism and white nationalism as a form of proto-fascism.

Why the fixation on fascism? The enormous crimes of Hitler and the nazis, along with decades of propaganda and the general perception of World War II as the last "good" (and unifying) war, make fascism the prototype of evil that people across the political spectrum (apart from self-proclaimed fascists) can all claim to oppose.

But there is a deeper reason why so many seek to identify political opponents as fascists – it strips the target of legitimacy, while at the same time justifying the use of extreme measures, up to and including war, to eliminate the threat the fascist represents. It's clear, in the event, why Bush compared Saddam to Hitler, and why Al Qaeda and other militant Islamic groups were designated as Islamo-fascists. Baseless as they were, such characterizations served to win public approval for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (as well as to link Saddam and bin-Laden in the minds of many).

Liberals and leftists, who found Hitler's moustache on George W. Bush's "what-me-worry" visage to be accurate and biting political satire, consider the right wing use of the same iconography on Barack Obama's "hope/change" face to be the height of absurd racism. Yet the continuities between Bush and Obama are undeniable (on the subsidies and bailouts to Wall Street, on the privatization of military, espionage and counter-insurgency forces, on the use of troop 'surges' in pursuit of victory in Iraq and Afghanistan). The Department of Homeland Security, the USA PATRIOT Act, ICE raids, TSA x-rays, indefinite detention of enemy combatants without trial have all been normalized under Obama.

To these crimes of the Empire under Bush, Obama has added a record increase in detentions and deportations of the undocumented. He has further militarized US engagement with Latin America, including acceptance of the military coup in Honduras and the implantation of US bases in Colombia. Obama eliminated single-payer health care, or even a public option, in favor of a pro-corporate coverage system that mandates individuals to buy private health insurance. He has intensified privatization of schools and attacks on public unions. Is it both who are fascist, or neither?

Some who accept fascism's self-definition as an anti-capitalist and 'revolutionary' current believe that white nationalists, open nazis and reactionary populists pose a true fascist threat, especially when combined with Christian fundamentalism, Reconstructionism or more heretical racial Identity sects. Others see statist authoritarianism or totalitarianism, emerging from corporate domination of all the levers of increasingly repressive power, glorification of the military and militarization of the police and other aspects of domestic society, as the main threat.

Anti-Racist Action has always held that fascism is built from above and below. Certainly the multi-million dollar subsidies of Tea Parties by billionaires shows that the two tendencies interlock.

But the real reason for the search for a definition of fascism that applies to current realities exposes an unfortunate truth – fear and avoidance of the need for revolution to deal with the Empire as it is right now. It reflects the acceptance and internalization of the Empire's legitimacy on its own terms, and defers the full possibility of uncompromising struggle until some future date when the system crosses the line to fascism.

But as George Jackson said, "Fascism is already here." He understood that fascism brought the methods of rule in the colonies into the metropole, and in the US, the colonies are a part of the domestic empire itself. Here, corporatism in both its senses – rule of corporations, and incorporation of organized masses into the Imperial state via white supremacy and neo-colonialism – have always been the rule.

The crimes of this Empire don't require the development of an explicitly fascist dictatorship to justify building a revolutionary opposition. Genocide, environmental devastation, the constant extraction of wealth and power from the exploited and oppressed, are daily realities right now. This democratic republican system condemns billions of people to lives of intense and grinding poverty for the enrichment of a few billionaires.

Without the SS, it operates a police state that requires racial profiling, gang injunctions and mass incarceration. Colonialism means a constant state of war against the colonized people to maintain control over land and labor. These realities require of us the self-critical examination of the strengths and weaknesses of all previous efforts at liberation to develop a strategy to win this time.

Waiting for full-blown fascism to justify the development of a clandestine mentality, or the full capacity for self-defense, is not only unnecessary morally or politically, it is suicidal. The Empire is already on the defensive, already beyond parasitic to necrotic, dead on its feet and injecting its death into its surroundings.

The Empire is a system of class and colonial war against the population and the planet. The war goes on whether we recognize it or not, so we cannot afford to fight with one hand behind our back or half-heartedly. Humanity, the earth itself and all the species that inhabit it, cry out for our best effort to uproot and overturn this system now.

Editorial Retraction and Self-Criticism

The Portland chapter of Anti-Racist Action, Rose City Antifa, brought to our attention that *Turning the Tide* has published several pieces from authors and sources that promote anti-Semitism, denial of Hitler's genocide of the Jews, and "left-right collaboration." We regret the error in publishing, without sufficiently investigating the sources and associations, what purported to be simply pro-Palestinian articles. As anti-fascists, we should have been more familiar with these anti-Semitic sources and narratives so as to oppose them effectively and counter the corrosive effect they have on anti-racism and true solidarity with Palestinians. ***TTT*** has long opposed a "red-brown" alliance.

In ***TTT*** Vol 22, #3, Fall 2009, we published "Boycotts as a Legitimate Means of Resistance As Determined by the Oppressed People" by Kim Petersen. It originally appeared on the *Dissident Voice* web site, of which Petersen is a co-editor. We ran the piece, which we came across on an email discussion list concerning the campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel (a tactic which we continue to support). The BDS campaign in LA and internationally specifically unites around barring racist and anti-Semitic forces. But it turns out that while *Dissident Voice* portrays itself as left wing and "a radical newsletter in the struggle for peace and justice," it promotes anti-Semitism that operates under only the barest cover of "anti-Zionism," while defending neo-Nazis. It also promotes "left-right crossover," which ARA-LA/PART and ***TTT*** have always opposed. Perhaps the clearest example of this is *Dissident Voice*'s publication of several articles by Daniel A. McGowan, executive director of *Deir Yassin Remembered* (not to be confused with US eco-radical and political prisoner Daniel G. McGowan.) In a December 30, 2006 article for *Dissident Voice*, McGowan recounts a prison visit with Ernst Zündel, the notorious neo-Nazi and Holocaust-denier, who McGowan presents as "a man with strong convictions and the courage to express them." McGowan's February 17, 2009 article "What Does Holocaust Denial Really Mean?" argued that "the Holocaust narrative of systematic, industrialized extermination was an important neo-conservative tool to drive the United States into Iraq." Another Jew-hater *Dissident Voice* published is Mark Green, editor of the anthology *Persecution, Privilege, & Power: Reconsidering the Zionist Narrative in American Life*. Green has spoken before the Institute for Historical Review, apologists for and deniers of Hitler's genocide of European Jewry, and has interviewed Kevin MacDonald, the white supremacist professor at California State University Long Beach who is now a leader with the fascist American Third Position Party. Green's piece defended the so-called "Heretical Two," English extreme-right activists Simon Sheppard and Stephen Whittle, who fled to the US to claim political asylum (unsuccessfully) after they were convicted in the UK of numerous charges of inciting racial hatred. More recently, *Dissident Voice* has published articles explicitly arguing for political collaboration between leftists and the far right, one of which was republished by Chuck Munson on the well-known anarchist site infoshop.org.

In ***TTT*** Vol. 23 #2, April-June 2010 we printed "International Campaign in Support of Palestinian Political Prisoners" by Yousef Abudayyeh. This article was originally published on the Palestine Think Tank website where Abudayyeh is a regular contributor. That site has published a direct attack against Rose City Antifa and the Anti-Racist Action Network written by the webmaster for Eugene, Oregon's Pacifica Forum, another pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic project. One of the Think Tank's founders, "ex-Jew" Gilad Atzmon, has circulated pro-Zündel material. He has written that "throughout the centuries, Jewish bankers bought for themselves some real reputations of backers and financers of wars and even one communist revolution." (Atzmon's article was pulled from Palestine Think Tank but remains on his personal site.) A particularly disturbing aspect of Palestine Think Tank is its promotion of "Israeli organ harvesting" allegations, a modern-day variant of the earlier Blood Libel that alleged that Jewish people killed Christian and Muslim children to use their blood in religious rituals. Yousef Abudayyeh, whose article appeared in ***TTT***, signed on to Palestine Think Tank's promotion of the "organ harvesting" libel.

Although the two articles we published do not contain this kind of material, we did not exercise due editorial diligence regarding the sources, connections and strategies of the authors and their associates. We continue to believe in the campaign to boycott Israel until its occupation and blockade of the territories occupied in the 1967 war ends, it recognizes the right of return for Palestinians in the refugee camps and diaspora, and Arab citizens in Israel have full equality and rights. We also continue to support freedom for Palestinian political prisoners (and all political prisoners). The long-term anti-colonial, anti-imperialist perspective of ARA-LA/PART is in favor of a "no-state" solution. We have always identified anti-Semitism and Zionism, as well as Arab reaction, as enemies not only of the Jewish and Arab people but all people. However, we apologize to our readers for inadvertently promoting sources and authors whose politics diverge from such authentically anti-imperialist views and in fact promote or front for right-wing, racist and anti-Semitic views.

Many years ago, in ***TTT*** Vol. 14, #2, Summer 2001, we printed the article "Ode to Farris" by Israel Shamir. Shamir was celebrated at the time by many on the US left, and presented himself as an anti-Zionist Jew living in Israel. But several individuals, including Ali Abunimah of the *Electronic Intifada* project, had already raised the alarm about Shamir's true politics and anti-Semitism, before Shamir even wrote the article that was eventually reprinted in *Turning the Tide*. We should have been aware of this at the time, and should have printed a retraction or warning when we later became aware of Shamir's true identity and politics. In their 2001 critique of Shamir, Ali Abunimah and Hussein Ibish made the key points. He promotes the Christian anti-Semitic theme of Jews as "Christ killers." He portrays Jewish people as a "virus" without a legitimate tie to any particular land who infect and undermine host populations; and he suggests that there is truth to the "Blood Libel" (Abunimah and Ibish assumed that Shamir must have been misquoted in the last instance). Our point in publishing Shamir's piece 9 years ago was the argument that the Palestinian people should be honored for their courage and resistance instead of being pitied as victims. However, at points the article's content lapses into the use of "Jew" as a racial category, and even without being aware of Abunimah and Ibish's expose, we should have caught that and found a better source for such an argument.

We want to thank Rose City Antifa for bringing these matters to our attention at the recent ARA Network conference, which they hosted, and for their diligent research efforts in documenting such pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic material. The full text of their material including extensive source citations and footnotes, is available on-line at www.antiracist.org.--***MN***

Rumors

Street Stories of Anti-Racist/Anti-Fascist actions in the U.S. & Canada

DISCLAIMER

The name of this blotter is to be taken literally. Nothing has been fact checked. Submissions were received via Internet from anonymous anti-fascists, who may or may not have been speaking about themselves. This blotter is meant to convey some of the realities of everyday anti-fascism, and is not to be taken as encouragement or endorsement of any particular action.

New Brunswick, NJ:
Anti-fascists and pro-choice individuals have been striking back against anti-abortion fundamentalists in their community. Anti-choicers picketing a local clinic during the "40 days for life" were struck by fruit and obscenities by passersby, and a long-standing fake clinic run by anti-choicers had its locks glued and a security camera damaged.

Chicago, IL:
Chi-town antifa lured the leader of the city's most active neo-nazi group and one of his crew 3 hours from home after posing as a potential recruit looking to buy a t-shirt. The two Nazis were greeted by a handful of antifa, who treated them to a proper greeting before making a quick escape, leaving the Nazis, who were arrested afterwards, reeling.

Trenton, NJ/Philadelphia, PA:
Antifascists from NJ and Philly have been on their game. Upon spotting Nazis at DRI shows in Philly and Sayreville, NJ antifa mobilized for a DRI show in Trenton, NJ. Contacting the promoters to get permission to table, they turned out huge numbers, and ran several members and associates of Keystone State Skinheads (KSS) out the door no sooner than they had paid admission. Philly antifa also tailed some KSS boneheads as they left an Overkill show in the city. In both instances KSS regional director Keith Carney attempted to deny he was a nazi as he fled. KSS seems to be suffering further setbacks, and have apparently cancelled their Leif Ericsson day action for October 10.

Chicago, IL:
Chicago gets a second mention this issue for turning out some hard nose antifa to an outing of local National Socialist Movement (NSM) member Suzy Lenner at her workplace, ironically a head shop called Secrets. A man claiming to be her boss jumped out of a taxi and accosted the antifa, but was met with a barrage of eggs against him and his store. Again, the antifascist ninjas melted into the street and evaded authorities.

Pittsburgh, PA:
PGH pro-choice militants and neighborhood kids converged on anti-choice protesters on a main drag in town, blocking their signs with large sheets. Eventually the anti-choicers gave up and headed to their car, where they were tailed by a now large, angry mob. At some point the car of one of the anti-choicers had its windows broken. They have not been seen in the neighborhood since.

Omaha, NE:
A 62 year old man was arrested for firing pepper spray at Gay hating, racist, sexist, all around worst people in the world Westboro "god hates fags" Baptist Church members while they picketed a military funeral. Westboro Church members also got a hot reception by dozens of comix fans when they attempted to picket the San Diego Comic-Con.

Pittsburgh PA, August:
David Japenga was found guilty of a felony and a buncha midemeanors for property destruction during the G-20 protests last year. He was remanded into custody until his sentencing, which isn't until November. His lawyer has a motion for bail until then. There was a solidarity demonstration at the jail for him. The most important thing you can do right now is to write him a letter so he gets it soon. His address is: David Japenga #153760, 950 Second Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Portland, OR, July:
As part of the July 31 Call to Action Against Racism and Fascism, a coordinated effort by anti-racists in North America and beyond (check out july31antifa.blogspot.com for the Call as well as reports of events that took place that day), a crowd of about 65 rallied and marched to the home of neo-Nazi Jeffery Jay Thomas, to distribute information about his political activities. Thomas was "out-ed" by RCA on July 4 for his participation in the racist Blood and Honour American Division 2010 Gathering near Omaha, Nebraska, as well as his other white power activities in Portland and beyond. To call Central City Concern Administration and express concern about neo-Nazi organizer Jeffrey Jay Thomas living at and organizing from their Sally McCracken Building property, the number for their Administrative Offices is: 503-294-1681 (Use *67 to obscure your number if security is a concern.)

While anti-racists rallied downtown, flyers were also in the mail to 100+ neighbors of Chaseton Dale Word, local leader of the neo-Nazi Northwest Front. The NWF claims the Pacific Northwest must be ethnically cleansed to form a white-only homeland.

All Over, USA:
Anti-Racist music is alive and well in the states. Aside from the constant vigilance of keeping fascists out of shows, there have been benefits for injured antifascist Luke Querner, who was shot in March by neo Nazis, from Philadelphia to Houston to Portland. Additionally, expressly anti-racist/fascist events were held recently in Hoquiam, Washington Knox County, Tennessee and Kent, Ohio.

Send items for "Rumors" to info@antiracistaction.org

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK

FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) **WE GO WHERE THEY GO:** Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) **WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US:** This doesn't mean we never go to court, but the cops uphold white supremacy and the status quo, They attack us and everyone that resists oppression. We must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) **NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS:** In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) **We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom.** ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia,transphobia and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a free classless society. **WE INTEND TO WIN!**

Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)
***PO Box 1055*Culver City CA 90232*310-495-0299**
antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com*www.antiracist.org

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK contact info: www.antiracistaction.org info@antiracistaction.org

NOTE: ARA's Points of Unity were modified at the July conference and ratified on-line to include opposition to Islamophobia, transphobia and systemic police abuse and repression.

Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education needs your help!

Postal and printing costs are up. Dozens of new prisoners ask to get free subs every month. Over 1200 copies of each edition are sent free to prisoners. Friends of ARA-LA/PART are either in prison, or facing prosecution for anti-fascist political activity. We had to switch to quarterly publication because of a lack of sufficient funds and staffing. **What can you do?**

We rely entirely on subscriptions and reader donations to publish. We've been coming out for 22 years, distributing thousands of copies free to prisoners, anti-racists and other concerned people without partisan subsidy, government funds or corporate grants. We depend entirely on you, the reader, to keep printing hard-hitting anti-racist, anti-colonialist analysis. **If you like what you're reading –**

Don't delay -- Subscribe today: $16 individual/$26 institutional or international annual subscription (for 4 quarterly issues)

Pay to: Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232 (no checks to Turning the Tide, please!)

Name: _____

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Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

ATTENTION PRISON SUBSCRIBERS! Because of financial constraints, prisoners who want a free subscription must contact us every 6 months. Too many papers are coming back because of address changes, releases or other similar problems. Therefore, prisoners who want to continue their subs please write us at least once during the year, and every time your address changes, with your EXACT address as it should appear on the address label to make sure the institution delivers it. **TTT** is a small project with few resources: **we can't provide books or legal aid, or investigate individuals' innocence**.

Town Business from the Bay to L.A.:

"WE ARE ALL OSCAR GRANT!"

by Shango Abiola, Field Marshal, Black Riders Liberation Party

"Point number 7: We demand an immediate end to police brutality and the murder of Black people." These words from the Ten Point Program and Platform of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, 'What We Want & What We Believe'," forever immortalized in the warrior spirit of the Afrikan Diaspora, have embodied the spirit of the people of northern and southern Cali.

If ever the phrase "history repeats itself" has had a positive connotation it's in the parallels of the movement for justice for Oscar Grant and the spread of the Black Panther Party in the 1960's. Let's not romanticize this historic struggle for justice of our brother Oscar Grant and all the ancestors who fell victim to the pigs' bullets, but it does seem quite obvious that the seeds of resistance are being planted similar to the ways they were in the '60s. Militant rebellions that ranged from protests that destroyed property in downtown Oakland to police being killed in response to an atmosphere of fear they created. The similarities are undeniable. In order for us to win this struggle this time around, we should need to analyze the situation as it is in order to decide how to move. This article will be an analysis and timeline of the events of the Oscar Grant Movement and the movement to end police terrorism.

JANUARY 1, 2009, 2:00 AM: THE PUBLIC LYNCHING

BART police officers Tony Pirone and Johannes Mehserle execute 22 year old Blackman and working father Oscar Grant, with his hands behind his back and Tony Pirone's knee on Oscar Grant's neck, while officers Merysol Domenici and other officers stood by and watched. Prior to their lynching Oscar Grant, well-known racist Tony Pirone was caught on tape assaulting Oscar Grant and calling him a BITCH ASS NIGGER multiple times before officer Mehserle cowardly shot him in the back.

JANUARY 7, 2009: THE TOWN'S REBELLION

At 3:00 pm, many grassroots organizations hold a press conference protesting the execution of Oscar Grant and demanding that all officers on the platform be held accountable and charged. Because of the community outrage and mobilization, Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums calls a separate press conference in order to divert attention from the community organizing around the murder of Oscar Grant. At 9:30 PM, Mayor Dellums's purposeful negligence, along with police provocation, leads a peaceful protest from the Fruitvale BART station into a full-scale rebellion in the middle of downtown Oakland. As a result of the rebellion over 100 people were arrested on frame-up charges, in an attempt to crush the movement of the people. This was referred to as the Oakland 100 case. Many of the people arrested were community organizers, such as the Minister of Information of the P.O.C.C. JR.

FEBRUARY 27, 2009: COINTELPRO IS STILL ALIVE

Self-confessed agent provocateur Mandingo Hayes (FAKE BLACK PANTHER/REAL SNITCH) starts a fight at Oscar Grant's birthday celebration outside of the Black Dot Café in West Oakland, in order to neutralize the community organizing against police terrorism.

MARCH 1, 2009

Town Hall meeting at the Black Dot Café: Many community activists gather to expose Hayes as an agent provocateur and strategize on the next move in the Johannes Mehserle case.

March 21, 2009 CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST
R.I.P. LOVELLE MIXON

Lovelle Mixon (Deep East Oakland Soldier) is killed after defending his life against four Oakland pigs while more than likely being racially profiled. Oakland police have a brutal history of terrorizing the Black and Brown community, from Black Panther Li'l Bobby Hutton to Oakland residents Gary King, Andrew Mopin, elderly woman Anita Gay and many more. Multiple officers (if not all) were corrupt; including officer Dunakin, a North Oakland pig known for lynching ("justifiable homicide") of Black men. We (the Black Riders Liberation Party) feel Lovelle Mixon's actions were righteous, whether he was a political organizer or not. We feel that our brother Lovelle Mixon represented with his dying breath the spirit of Afrikan resistance. The B.R.L.P. feels that whether he was a revolutionary or not, he acted in a more revolutionary manner than some so-called "revolutionaries" who are more scared of police repression than they are in tune with the unspoken language of the streets! To the Afrikans in the united snakes, brother Lovelle Mixon's actions speak to the need in the black community to militantly organize the masses of Afrikan people in ways that aren't all theory with no action. Black Riders is just that kinda organiztion. We feel because of the political atmosphere from the Oscar Grant execution, the historic nature of the pigs being an occupying army, and the terrorist reputation of Dunakin and OPD, that Lovelle Mixon's act of rebellion were, as El Hajj Malik El Shabazz (Malcolm X) would say, "THE CHICKENS COMING HOME TO ROOST!"

SEPTEMBER 11, 2009: CHANGE IN VENUE

Mehserle's defense attorney Michael Rains files for a change of venue order to stop the people of Oakland and the Bay Area's continuous rebellion, and the trial moves to Los Angeles shortly after. The defense filed the motion from the belief that the people of Alameda were too racist to be an impartial jury….ain't that some B.S.

JANUARY 8, 2010: 2 LIVE AND DIE IN LA

The preliminary hearing in Los Angeles starts for the trial of Johanes Mehserle and the people of LA are there, to show their support for Oscar Grant's family and protest police terrorism. Being a city drenched in blood of pig terrorism from Rodney King to Deandre Brunston, the people made sure to have a strong presence at the courthouse, to show that police brutality won't be tolerated in LA. Among the organizations that were there were the Black Riders Liberation Party, the Commemoration Committee For The Black Panther Party, the Prisoners Of Conscience Committee, the Justice Coalition For Oscar Grant (Bay & LA) and more.

JUNE 10, 2010: TRIAL OFFICIALLY STARTS

The trial of murdering pig Officer Mehserle begins in LA.

JUNE 14, 2010: ALL OUT TO THE COURT-HOUSE

The Black Riders post on security detail as the LA Coalition and the people protest police terrorism outside the court house as witnesses are called to the stand. Supporters from as far as Seattle and New York come to LA to help build resistance against police terrorism and fight for justice for Oscar Grant.

JUNE 25, 2010: THE DISREPECT CONTINUES

Mehserle takes the stand and gives a rehearsed testimony with the acting skills of a politician, crying on stand about him killing Oscar Grant, even though he hasn't apologized to the victim's mother or family. At this blatant disrespect for Oscar Grant comrade Timothy Killings of the Laney College BSU (in Oakland) stands up and tells Mehserle to "save those fucking fake tears...". He was assaulted and taken into custody in LA county Jail until he was freed a few days later.

JULY 1, 2010: NO JUSTICE NO PEACE

The possibility of Murder 1 is taken off the board and the stage is set by the state to deny yet another Black family justice.

JULY 5, 2010: PIGS FAKE THE FUNK

Black Riders drill and demonstrate in front of the courthouse even though the courts have postponed the verdict announcement. For some odd reason the trial is postponed because one juror is supposedly sick and another one supposedly has an appointment to go to…. hmm, sounds like a set up.

JULY 7: OPPRESSION BREEDS RESISTANCE, RESISTANCE BREEDS REPRESSION

Pigs raid the Black Rider headquarters on a supposed parole violation, on the night before what turns out to be the day the verdict comes in. Several comrades are hemmed up while the fascist police seize computers and literature from the house and take General T.A.C.O. straight to state custody bypassing booking and holding. The fact is the fascist state knows that the Black Riders have been the main voice for the Afrikan community in LA standing up for justice for Oscar Grant non-stop. Without a pot to piss in, comrades still push the line for justice every day of our lives, providing support and political education for comrades from Oakland while down in LA. I can say personally as a member of Black Riders and being from the Bay area that General T.A.C.O. in the short time I have known him has helped to sharpen my military and political skills as a revolutionary more than anyone else I have met in my life. Linking Afrikans with Indigenous people not just in LA but all over California. The parole officer told T.A.C.O. he was being taken for "sending the Black Riders to the Oscar Grant trial." A few days later, after the verdict came in, the supervisor of General T.A.C.O.'s parole officers released him back to the streets, acknowledging that it had been an unfounded action, but warning him that the feds, the LAPD and the parole system saw him as a threat. Despite the fact that the Black Riders proved in court during the trial proceedings against the Black Rider 3 that the BRLP is not a gang, the parole officers still intend to use the former gang jackets hung on some members of the BRLP to restrict T.A.C.O.'s ability to associate and communicate with members of his community.

JULY 8: NO JUSTICE NO PEACE, F*#!K THE POLICE!

After only six hours of deliberation, the jury convicts murderous pig Johannes Mehserle of only involuntary manslaughter with a gun enhancement, and the court proves yet again that this system is not designed for poor and oppressed people. Protestors meet up in Los Angeles at Leimert Park demanding real justice. In downtown Oakland, on 14th and Broadway, a group of thousands of people angrily meet up to speak out against police terrorism, and after their assembly is declared illegal, destroy corporate property in spite an excess of scary ass pigs and the National Guard being called in. Seventy-eight people were arrested, 12 of whom weren't even from California. One thing is for sure, the fascist state is getting scared, but the people aren't. Shout out to the righteous fury connecting the people from the Bay to L.A. Game recognize Game, and it shows that the people will not let Oscar Grant's memory go in vain!

It is hard to say how the outcome of this trial will affect oppressed people in general and Afrikan people in particular, but it is safe to say that whatever the outcome of the Mehserle trial, that our work as revolutionaries will not be done even with a partial guilty verdict. The fact that officers Domenici and Pirone were fired is not enough. Just the simple fact that their appeals weren't ripped up and laughed at shows that there is no justice in this system for black people, or brown people or any oppressed people so long as kkkapitalism lives. Sentencing has been postponed until November 8 in hopes people will drop their guard and Mehserle's defense can win a motion to throw out the gun enhancement. People are mobilizing to make sure Mehserle gets the maximum sentence, and that justice is sought in other legal arenas.

But one thing is for sure -- that the Black Riders Liberation Party will be here to push the line for justice for Oscar Grant, Lovelle Mixon, Deandre Brunston, Carlos Rivera, Ayana Jones and all victims of police terrorism, until the principles of Revolutionary Afrikan Inter-communalism are achieved. Our work is not defined by the verdict of white supremacist bourgeoisie law, but this case is a catalyst for the people who were too plugged into the matrix to see the terror that Black people experience to wake up and get active. We will continue to push the line until we are FREE!

Free Mumia, Free Leonard Peltier, Free Oso Blanco, Free Chip Fitzgerald, Free General T.A.C.O. and Free All Political Prisoners!
Justice for Oscar Grant, Justice for Deandre Brunston, Justice for Carlos Rivera!

Black Power to Black People!
ALL POWER THROUGH THE PEOPLE!
JOIN NOW!

Black Riders Liberation Party,
PO Box 8297,
Los Angeles CA 90008
blackridersliberation@gmail.com
323-557-5607

As we went to press, street protests erupted in LA against cops who killed a Maya day laborer. ARA, Black Riders, Brown Riders, LA Oscar Grant Coal. were out to support the Guatemalan community.

HAITI: AGONY AND COURAGE

by Mabie Settlage and Osprival Descomme

A prolonged agony has now engulfed Haiti and its people, and an enormous outpouring of sympathy, support, donations and reconstruction efforts are called for from the world's people. But we need to keep in mind a clear picture of the Haiti that bore the horrific earthquake of January 12, 2010, and that continues to bear the consequences, in order to point a direction forward – the gallant, beautiful Haiti that has struggled for its sovereignty since 1804.

For people who believe in a world of equal rights and justice, especially for Africa and African slaves' descendants, Haiti is a beacon of freedom and possibility. For those who oppose those ideals and profit through their suppression, Haiti has been a throbbing thorn in their side and a constant target.

We went to Haiti after the quake, to see first hand the impact on the people and on our previous solidarity efforts there. In the darkness of a spring night, our car caught in a traffic jam driving into Tabarre, a suburb of Port au Prince. Huge truckloads of manufactured goods heading out of town, other huge trucks headed into the city with vegetables and fruit from the countryside. The smells of diesel and charcoal seemed so normal, so busy as Haiti always is – until you look past the highway, where the moonlight reflects on thousands of shelters, tents, plastic sheets, hanging blankets: the refuge of some of the population displaced from the capital by the quake.

It was two months after the quake. We were working in the countryside, bringing farmers from the Latibonite Valley to an area above the coastal city of San marc, where an agricultural community may have the key to restoring Haitian food security. Our team was heading into P.a.P. to meet others, all Haitians but me, a teacher from LA. My comrade, a Haitian who'd been living in Canada and an organizer of our collective work, was driving. Five of our members had been in the capital on Jan. 12, shaken out of our office, but unhurt. Their stories were of horror, dust, screaming, bodies, seeing friends die, not one or two but dozens, the pervasive smell of death. One lost his baby boy, brother and nephew under rubble still unmoved until July. Everyone had pain to survive and recover from, and they were doing so through collective effort to confront the post-quake realities.

Entering the city in the morning, we were greeted by a big banner across the road: "Retou a la vi, Ayiti Pap Peri" (Come back to life, Haiti has not perished). True that. Much of the city is rubble, but not all, and press declarations that Haiti was destroyed are not true. But the enormity of the task of re-housing the displaced is hard to fathom.

The beautiful city parks, once full of Haitians on warm evenings between the insecurity of the political past (of dictatorship and coups) and the horror of the "*catastroph*", are now full of families housed in tents or just plastic sheeting.

Haiti being Haiti, even that has flavor. A displaced club owner has set up speakers blasting "*compas*" to passersby and residents sitting in plastic chairs and sipping "*Rhum Babanko*." Women grill meat on makeshift barbecues, smells mingling with roast corn, chicken and spicy cabbage garnish. We went to the "*Neg Marron*", the Haitian bronze statue tribute to the spirit of revolution, a slave with broken chains, raising a conch shell to call the country to battle. It is surrounded by shanties, but as we left, a young man said to us in Kreyol, "Take a picture of my store."

We hitched a boat to our car, and towed it through the epicenter. We saw where the road had cracked, and passed flattened buildings. Over the mountain in Jacmel we saw collapsed schools and hotels. We delivered the boat to some fishers in Jacmel. A young man came up and asked if I spoke English, explaining he had learned to in school. "We had a natural '*catastroph*'," he said. "The Caribbean plate crashed into the North American plate – tectonics." I told him I wish I could put him on TV to dispel the lies on US news about the Haitians' superstitions.

Although there was a giant, splendid medical relief effort immediately after the quake, and the delivery of food and water saved thousands of lives, we can testify first hand that there is still no evidence of reconstruction. We saw only three large land movers in March, and my comrade saw no significant change in July. We saw men with hammers, striking concrete off collapsed rebar, and teenagers with shovels, tossing rubble into pickup trucks – but NO LARGE ORGANIZED EFFORT to put thousands of displaced into real housing. Markets and roads had been built before the January quake with aid from Hugo Chavez's Venezuela, which also assisted in improving the reliability of electrical generation. Before the quake, things seemed promising.

And the promise is still there. Haiti is a country that never stays down, regardless of natural or man-made disasters. It's a remarkable place, its people of enduring optimism. What Haiti has contributed to world history and culture is unmatched. Haiti was the first to stand up and tell the world: "The African was not made by god to be a slave!" Surrounded and occupied by bigger, more powerful nations, whose wealth was based on slavery, Haiti said, "No!" Here is the only place on the planet where an enslaved population rose up with blood and courage, threw off the slave master and declared independence, defeating the strongest European army of the day, that of Napoleon. Haitians even earlier had helped the US defeat the British in the Battle of Savannah. The Haitian resistance to the French forced that Empire to sell Louisiana Territory to the US to raise revenue. The Haitian Constitution of 1804 was the first on earth to declare universal civil rights to all, men and women. In renaming the former Saint-Domingue "Haiti," (Ayiti), Pres. Dessalines honored the indigenous Arawak people, the first time that native Americans were recognized in naming a country.

But these very examples of slave revolt and sovereignty struck fear in slave owners and colonizers. Haiti was the first country in the world to face economic sanctions, as slave-owner President Thomas Jefferson imposed an embargo against it. Haiti was the first country in the world forced to pay reparations – to the slave master! The price of international recognition of Haiti's independence was to pay France 150 million francs for the loss of their colony and slaves. Without cash, Pres. Boyer of Haiti had to accept a French loan, and pay the revenue needed for development to the European creditors. Haiti has since been invaded more than 20 times. Spanish, French, German and U.S. warships have entered Haitian waters, and the country has been forced to pay indemnities, reduce its tariffs, suffer under imposed dictators, and face the plunder of its labor and resources. Yet the people retain their optimism and welcoming graciousness – and their willingness to resist.

Frederick Douglass said of Haiti in 1893: "To their shame … men in high American quarters have boasted to me of their ability to start a revolution in Haiti at their pleasure." And this remains true – both coups that drove twice-elected President Jean Bertrand Aristide from office and into exile were financed and outfitted by U.S. private and government support. The coups cost thousands of lives and dashed hopes of real change.

Today, Haiti is again suffering from forces it neither created nor controls. Pundits and journalists speculate about the "fatalism" of the Haitians and call for a repetition of the destabilizing, insulting paternalism of earlier episodes of intervention. Pity, condescension and missionary zeal will only cause more long-term harm. Help rescue and rebuild Port au Prince, but do so recognizing the strength and vitality of the Haitian people. No other nation has worked so diligently to stay independent. Relief efforts from the international community must be guided by Haitian independence and self-determination, rather than serving to propagate or disguise a new occupation. ***Let Haiti Live!***

Mabie Settlage is an anti-racist of European descent, a teacher in South L.A. and has been active in solidarity with Haiti since before the 200th anniversary of Haitian independence. Osprival Descomme is a Haitian NGO director. Both have visited Haiti recently, and in collaboration with members of a local Haitian community are currently operating and developing a school in the Artibonite Valley, Haiti.

To donate to the project, you can make out a check to Osprival Descomme, and send it to Mabie Settlage, 2158 W. 75th St., L.A. CA 90047.

Iroquois Nationals, Nationalism and Exception

By Flint http://flintultrasparc.livejournal.com/64552.html

Recently, I posted a number of articles about the Iroquois *Nationals* difficulty with using their Haudenosaunee passports to travel to the World Lacrosse Championship in Manchester. I was asked if this was exceptionalism or if I accepted nationalism. Well, first of all, I want the Iroquois to beat the pants off England. More seriously, I believe in the free migration of people. People have a 'human right' to self-determination. What constitutes a state is a fine discussion to have, though I think most human polities fall between the poles of anarchy and totalitarianism and I prefer the kind that lean towards the anarchy side.

As to nations: I believe nations exist at the very least as a social construct among those who self-identify with a nation. I think they can be limiting in ways and definitely fray towards the edges. When nationalism is tied to the state, all kinds of bad things happen including the stagnation of culture. I think the Six Nations have a far better claim to being a "nation" than perhaps some others. I'm really not caught up on defining what ***is*** and ***isn't*** a nation though... If the nation is not the ideology of a coercive state, it really doesn't matter whether someone isn't national enough for whatever definition is being used.

As to nationalism: I support working class struggles against political and economic imperialism, racism, genocide and colonization. Which is not to say that I support the formation of a new minority ruling class that will engage in political domination and economic exploitation. People have a right to participatory decision-making if the decision effects them... people have a right to decide what happens to the landbase they live upon and have done so for some time.

To take it out of the abstract, I found it easy to support the Six Nations Reclamation of the Douglas Creek Estates in regards to the province of Ontario and the municipality of Caledonia. The Estates were a gentrifying land grab that was by no means necessary, a speculative real estate endeavor for private profit. The city of Brantford, 30 miles away is tearing down a whole street of adequate buildings. Unlike Caledonia, Brantford has a larger highway, a rail hub and far more urban density. The national identity of the 6 Nations is important to the whole situation. It's the unifying narrative of the community resisting and it's the historical basis to why there's a Six Nations at Ohsweken, a Brantford and a Caledonia at all. The Reclamation began as a non-violent sit in, but the Ontario Provincial Police decided to escalate and violently enforce a claim of ownership backed up by a judge who also claims ownership on a disputed part of the Haldimand Tract. After the police violence was opposed, folks started whipping up racist sentiment among some Caledonians against the 6 Nations. The national aspect shouldn't be ignored here in addition to the class character of the conflict and the ecological and community aspects. They thought they could get away with it because of how the Canadian state has treated indigenous nations. In living memory, Canada used to steal their children and hand them over to residency schools--they probably thought they could get away with seizing more land for private profit.

Play Ball!

When it comes to whether some world championship quality Lacrosse players ought to be able to fly to the championship, and compete in the game that their ancestors invented, and to do so in as a team constituted among the nations that invented the game, and in honoring the treaties going back centuries, and that they should do so with identity documents which acknowledge that history, and since travelling that way has been legal for centuries and permitted all up until NOW... I'm clearly with the Iroquois Nationals on this. Let them play!

One aspect of the Iroquois Nationals which I find politically fascinating is that it's not a national team, but rather a team of a confederacy of distinct nations who share a common history, language and cultural similarities. Haudenosaunee, traditionally, is a confederacy of distinct nations and not a nation unto itself. As a contrast, when it comes to the Oneida nation, I think Arthur Raymond Halbritter is a petty dictator and capitalist exploiter willing to use violence to increase his power and money through the Turning Stone Casino.

continued on bottom of next page (see "Haudenosaunee")...

Demand an End to Philippine Military Attacks on Youth Activists

by Eric Tandoc, Anakbayan-Los Angeles, info@anakbayanla.org

Anakbayan-Los Angeles member Hiyasmin Quijano received alarming news that her cousin, Ivee Tañedo, was being stalked and harassed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Quijano stated, "I've heard of these attacks on activists before, but it didn't become real to me until I had to deal with it in my own family."

Thousands of flyers demonizing Tañedo, a 24-year-old student leader at the University of the Philippines, as well as fellow students Mark Velasco and Randili Elec, were posted and distributed in several barangays and college campuses in Southern Tagalog. The flyer warns that Tañedo is "an ordinary and simple woman, but hidden in sheep's clothing is a fierce enemy of the people." Tañedo is a compassionate leader of GABRIELA and Anakbayan in Southern Tagalog. She works tirelessly with the community to promote youth empowerment, protest the displacement of people whose homes were demolished for development, and call for an end to all human rights violations.

Under the policies of Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL) [Operation Freedom Watch]—the U.S.-funded counter-insurgency program that seeks to "strategically defeat" the New People's Army -- the AFP targets legal progressive organizations and activists like Tañedo as "enemies of the state." As a result of OBL, thousands of activists and community leaders have been harassed, abducted, and killed. Among these victims are University of the Philippines student activists Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan, who were abducted and tortured by the military in June of 2006 while conducting research.

After only one month in office, President Aquino's administration has already committed five extrajudicial killings, following the same program implemented by former President Arroyo. The victims include college students and two teachers.

Aquino must end Oplan Bantay Laya and recognize that these killings are not the result of "personal feuds" but are a direct result of the repressive state policy that falsely tags legal progressive organizations as communist fronts and state enemies. The Aquino administration must implement measures to hold its armed forces accountable and ensure a policy of "no harassment, abduction, or killings" of activists. According to Bernadette Ellorin, Chairperson of BAYAN USA, "The new Aquino administration's decision to officially extend the counter-insurgency program known as Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL) can only signal an aggravation of the already acute human rights crisis in the Philippines. OBL was concocted in 2001 and re-launched in 2007. In both cases, it failed to meet its objective to annihilate the so-called armed insurgency in the Philippine countryside. OBL was also heavily scrutinized and condemned worldwide by international human rights bodies, including the UN, for targeting unarmed civilians critical of the Philippine government," she says.

"Essentially an assassination, abduction, torture, and red-baiting campaign, OBL bears a strong resemblance to the US-funded and designed Operation Phoenix during the 1960's in Vietnam," Ellorin concluded.

Nearly $1 billion worth of U.S. military aid and materiel has been granted to the Philippines since 1999. "I don't understand why our tax money is being used to target activists like my cousin when we have such a serious financial crisis here in the United States," said Hiyasmin Quijano. Anakbayan demands that President Barack Obama immediately terminate any U.S. funding of the Philippine military and instead allocate funds for much-needed social services and education in the U.S.

Written by: Melissa Roxas
Illustrated by: Franz DG

Haudenosaunee/Iroquois Nationals' Right to Travel

...continued from bottom of previous page

I generally favor the efforts of Oneidas for Democracy; and I think Halbritter shows the kind of man he is by uprooting the tree of peace that Jake Swamp planted to try and encourage peace and reconciliation.

When it comes to things like tobacco and firearms trafficking or the relocation of established community residents by decree of recognized Indian governments using such criteria as blood quanta I am considerably more conflicted. Rarely do I think forced population transfers are good thing.

Keep in mind... I am very distant to all these struggles; and have only once been to Kahnawake. It's really not my place to be throwing a lot of judgements around; but I can't help but have opinions, and I'm offering them here to explain how my own politics address the contradictions of being an anarchist in a world of states, and being an internationalist in a world of nations (an internationalist is not the same thing as an anti-nationalist). Personally, I try to take up T-Pain's banner "My country is the world, and my religion is to do good." Merely surviving day to day causes me to constantly sacrifice pure political principle. That said, I still find those principles useful for informing my actions and deciding upon my pragmatic choices.

I have developed an appreciation and fondness for what I understand of Iroquois culture. Part of that comes from seeing similarities between political ideas I have and historical aspects of the traditional Haudenosaunee polity--though it goes beyond that. I hope those cultural aspects I appreciate would not disappear from the world. I would also hope that the Iroquois culture would be a living, changing, evolving culture. I think that tradition has a lot of values I prefer over some contrasting values of the society within which I was raised... though even those traditional values I admire are as much in need of reconstruction as they are in sustaining.

There are many other aspects of my life that conflict with my anarchist values far more than my appreciation of the Iroquois *Nationals* or my support for their right to travel on their own national passport. I am in a wage labor relationship with a private employer, I use currency, I pay taxes, I have a U.S. passport, a state issued ID by Maryland, a 401K tied up in mutual funds, and private health insurance. I'm a joint owner in automobile, and I have a lease with a landlord. Most of that also wouldn't be part of my anarchist utopia.

Oh, did I mention that I want the Iroquois *Nationals* to beat the pants off of England?

Bump hips!

-- Flint

For more information on Haudenosaunee struggles, check out
http://sisis.nativeweb.org/actionalert/

Death Row Interview with Mumia Abu-Jamal:

A Journalist on Death Row

http://en.rsf.org/united-states-mumia-abu-jamal-i-am-an-outlaw-03-09-2010,38278.html

On August 29th, 2010, Reporters Without Borders Washington DC representative, Clothilde Le Coz, visited Mumia Abu-Jamal, prisoner on death row for nearly three decades. Ms. Le Coz was accompanied by Abu-Jamal's lead attorney, Robert R. Bryan, and his legal assistant, Nicole Bryan. The meeting took place in room 17 of the State Correctional Institution (SCI) in Waynesburg, Greene county, Pennsylvania.

Reporters Without Borders: As a journalist who continues to work in prison, what are your latest reports focused on?
Mumia Abu-Jamal: The prison population in the United States is the highest in the world. Over the past year, for the first time in 38 years, the prison population declined. Some states, like California or Michigan, are taking fewer prisoners because of overcrowding. State budgets are restrained and some prisoners are released because of the economic situation.

Prisons in America are vast and the number of prisoners is immense. It's impressive to see how much money is spent by the US government and how invisible we are. No one knows. Most people don't care. Some journalists report when there is a drama in prison and think they know about it. But this is not real : it is sensationalist. You can find some good writings. But they are unrealistic. My reporting is what I have seen with my eyes and what people told me. It is real. My reporting has to do with my reality. They mostly have been focusing on death row and prison. I wish it were not so. There is a spate of suicides on death row in the last year and a half. But this is invisible. I broke stories about suicide because it happened on my block.

I need to write. There are millions of stories and some wonderful people here. Among these stories, the ones I chose to write are important, moving, fragile. I decide to write them but part of the calculation is to know whether it's helpful or not. I have to think about that. As a reporter, you have a responsability when you publish those kind of stories. Hopefully, it will change their lives for the better.

Do you think the fact you were a reporter affected your case ?

Being the "Voice of the Voiceless" played a significant role. And this expression actually comes from the title of a Philadephia Inquirer headline after I was arrested in 1981. As a teenager, I was a radical journalist working on the staff of the Black Panthers national newspaper. The FBI was actually monitoring my writings since I was 14. My first job was being a reporter. Because of my writings, I am far better known that any inmate in America. If it were not the case, I think there would have been less pressure for the Court to create a special law to affect my conviction. Most of the men and women on death row are not well known. Because I continue to write, this is an element that would have affected the thinking of the judges and made them change the ruling for not giving me a new trial. I think they were thinking "You're a big mouth, you won't get a new trial". You expect a little more from a federal Court. Because of my case, a dozen of other cases can be affected.

What do you think of media coverage of your case?

Once, I read that I was no longer on death row. I was sitting here when I read it. I haven't stopped sitting here for one second.

Because I was coming from the craft, a lot of reporters did not want to cover my case because they feared they would be attached. They had to face criticisms for being partial and sometimes they were told by their editors they could not cover it. Since the beginning of the case, people who could cover me best were not allowed to. Most of reporters I worked with are no longer working. They retired and nobody took the work over.

But the press should have a role to play here. Millions of people saw what was done in Abu Ghraib. Its leader, smiling on the pictures that have been published, worked here before going to Abu Ghraib. In death row, you have people without a high school degree who can decide whether someone lives or dies. For whatever reason, they have the power to make you not eat if they don't want to. And none of that power is checked by anyone. There are informal rules. These people can make someone's life a living hell on a wink. When I chose which stories I want to write about, I am never short on material. From a writing perspective, this field is rich.

No matter what my detractors are saying about me, I am a reporter. This country would be a whole lot worse without journalists. But to many of them, I am an outlaw reporter. Prior to prison, in my work for various radio stations, I met people from all around the world and despite my conflicts with some editors, I had the greatest job.

The support you receive in Europe compared to the support you receive here in the United States, is very different. How do you explain the difference and do you still believe international mobilization will be helpful ?

Of course it will. The European mobilization might be pressuring the US regarding the death penalty. Foreign countries, like European ones, went through a specific history of repression. There was an in-their-bones-knowledge of what it is to be in prison. They know about prison, death row and concentration camps. In the US, very few people had that experience. That speaks to how cultures look at things in the world. In Europe, the very ideal of death penalty is an anathema.

9/11 changed a lot of things in the US. People challenging or opposing the government would not be supported anymore. The press also changed. Things that were "allowable" became unacceptable after 9/11. I think 9/11 changed the way people thought and it changed the tolerance of the media. For example, even though 9/11 happened in Manhattan and Washington DC, the jail was closed for an entire day, here in Pennsylvania, and we were locked down.

To motivate more people around your cause, it might be helpful to get an up to date picture of you, today, on death row. Does the fact that we don't have any updated picture of you affect your situation and the ability of more people to mobilize around your cause?

Having a public image is partly helpful. The essence of an image is propaganda. Pictures are therefore not that important. The human image is the true one. There, I try to do my best. In 1986, prison authorities took recorders from reporters and you were only allowed a pen and a paper. Now that there is only the meaning of one article left, one can make monsters and models from his article.

If the Supreme Court agrees on a new trial, only your sentence will be reviewed. Not your conviction. How do you feel about staying in prison for life, if you are not executed?

In Pennsylvania, life sentence is a slow death row. And under the state law, there are 3 degrees of murders. The first degree is punished by life sentence or death. The second and the third ones are punished by life sentence. People do not get out. The highest juvenile rate of life sentences is here in Pennsylvania. But here is my point, in Philadelphia, there were two other cases around my time were people killed a cop. The first one got aquittal. The second once, caught on a surveillance camera, did not get a death sentence.

How do you manage to "escape" death row?

I have written on History, one of my passions. I would love to write about other things. My latest works are about war, but I also write about culture and music. I have an internal beat that I try to keep through poetry and drums. Very few things have matched the pleasure that I get from learning music. It's like learning another language. And to write, that's a challenge ! A music teacher comes every week and teaches me. A whole new world is opening to me and I get a better grasp of it now. Music is one of the best thing mankind has done. The best of our lives.

For further information and to offer support for Mumia Abu-Jamal, contact:

Law Offices of Robert R. Bryan,
2088 Union Street, Suite 4,
San Francisco, CA 94123-4117
http://www.MumiaLegalDefense.org

Petition also available from our website

Reporters Without Borders defends imprisoned journalists and press freedom throughout the world. It has nine national sections (Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland). It has representatives in Bangkok, New York, Tokyo and Washington. And it has more than 120 correspondents worldwide.

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"No Surrender" Anti-Fa Mixed Martial Arts Tournament

In October 2010 the Third International Mix fight Tournament "No surrender!" will take place among antifascists of Europe in Moscow Russia. The tournament, is organized, spearheaded by, and involves active antifascists from Eastern Europe. It traditionally gathers sportsmen and viewers, from different cities and countries, who have a clear antifascist approach to life. The first and second "No Surrender!" tournaments were devoted to the memory of our comrades - Fyodor Filatov and Ivan Khutorskoy, who were killed in the struggle against neo-Nazis in Moscow. The third part of the tournament will be dedicated to everybody who still fights against Nazism, social injustice, and repression from the State. To everybody who didn't yield under pressure, who is in being actively opposed to ultra right wing extremists and the repressive state apparatus itself.

For many of us the freedom to express our antifascist position has became dangerous to our health, life and freedom. Street fights between our like-minded peers and neo-Nazis become more violent, confrontations with far right extremists take place during political demonstrations and ecological pickets. This war is taking place not in order to take power on the streets, but in order to take part in social protest actions too. Law enforcement agencies create special departments against "youth extremism", whose sole activity is to frame criminal cases against antifascists. Many of our comrades are put into prisons. Life dictates new violent terms for our fight.

Keeping present-day conditions in mind, we consider that martial arts should occupy an important place in the life of everyone who calls himself an antifascist. We also think that people who consider themselves part of the antifascist movement should be sober, disciplined, and ready for any type of scenario and how to apply force on the streets. Sport should be a means to achieve our common aims. Nobody will protect us except ourselves.

The tournament "No Surrender! - 3" is organized in order to further popularize the sport among antifascists, as propaganda for a healthy way of living and in order to strengthen the brotherhood between members of different cities. The tournament is dedicated to everyone, who still believes in our ideals and continues the struggle.

To take part in the tournament you should send a request to this e-mail:
nesdavaisya3@gmail.com.
The rules of the tournament, exact dates, invitation and venue of event will be sent later to the provided contact.

(for flier: http://avtonom.org/node/13147)

ENDORSEMENTS IN PACIFICA/KPFK LOCAL STATION BOARD ELECTIONS

A crisis is facing the Pacifica network and US society. KPFK and other Pacifica stations must live up to the mandate of their mission at this critical moment of war, racism, social conflict, environmental devastation and economic hard times. Yet under current mismanagement and governance, the stations and foundations are marching towards corporatization and irrelevance. A few years ago, KPFK played a leading role in bringing all anti-war groups in LA together to build a coalition of coalitions for a single joint united anti-war protest. The general manager went to New Orleans to assist the survivors of Katrina, racism and government malfeasance. The station had an activist orientation coming off the successful struggle to democratize Pacifica and reverse the corporate agenda. It restored previously banned and fired programs of color like Freedom Now and American Indian Airwaves, and added Spanish and indigenous language programming. This inspired listeners to action. Audiences grew and the station held routinely short, successful million dollar fund-drives.

This year, as KPFK and the other Pacifica stations have tried to 'mainstream' and 'whiten' their sound, they have become increasingly irrelevant to and disconnected from grassroots communities in survival struggles over unemployment, imprisonment, foreclosures, gentrification, militarization of schools and the border, ICE raids, and police abuse. As a result, month-long fund-drives fail to meet their goal, requiring additional mini-marathons to try to make up the shortfall, further alienating listeners. At KPFK, a coalition, GrassrootsKPFK, endorsed by ARA-LA/PART, is running a slate of candidates for the LSB – Aryana Gladney of the Black Riders Liberation Party, Lawrence Reyes of the Puerto Rican Alliance, ***TTT*** editor Michael Novick, Brenda Medina, graduate student in Chicano Studies and former UCLA radio producer, Lydia Brazon of the Humanitarian Law Project, Chuck Anderson and Ron Spreistersbach. Similar slates are running at WBAI and KPFA. Check www.grassrootskpfk.net for more info. This LSB election may be the last chance to restore Pacifica to its mission. You can check out the principles of the LA coalition at www.grassrootskpfk.net. I'll bet you agree with them, but the key is to implement them, to energize the station through a dialogue with listeners and the larger community. This requires electing grassroots activists from communities of color in particular, engaged in daily resistance. If you're a KPFK listener-sponsor, vote for Aryana Gladney, Lawrence Reyes, Michael Novick of ARA-LA/PART, and the other GrassrootsKPFK candidates. You can check out slates at the other stations through www.pacificaresistance.org. If you're a member and don't have your ballot yet, check with 866-peace01 or **les_kpfk@pacifica.org**.

Vote for Aryana Gladney, Lawrence Reyes, Michael Novick, Brenda Medina, Lydia Brazon, Chuck Anderson and Ron Spriestersbach for KPFK Local Station Board by September 30, 2010.

Excerpts from:

The Conspiracy Industry and the Lure of Fascism

by Bill Weinberg, ***World War 4 Report***

New York's WBAI FM—of the progressive Pacifica Network, where I'm a producer—unfortunately provides a case study in the increasing embrace of right-wing conspiracy theory by the remnants of the left. WBAI has followed the same trajectory as many of progressive inclination since 2001. What began as an examination of anomalies in the case of 9-11 has lured some of our best minds down a black hole of irrationality that leads to fascism.

Critical Inquiry versus Conspiranoia

Before detailing the dynamics of this deterioration, we must distinguish between legitimate critical inquiry and a state of perpetual paranoia about conspiracies in high places, in which the improbable and impossible is treated as a *fait accompli* if it supports the proffered theory. It may begin with pre-planted explosives or missiles bringing down the Twin Towers, but it doesn't end there—because once you abandon reason, anything goes. Those who raise criticisms are accused of supporting the "official story." This is where the distinction is critical. It has to be made clear in this context that conspiracies exist. Contragate was a conspiracy; Watergate was a conspiracy; and whoever was behind 9-11, it was a conspiracy. Conspiracies exist, and are worthy of examination. The fallacy is the "conspiracy theory of history," the notion that conspiracies explain everything that's wrong with society. This is a reversal of reality. It is political economy that explains what's fundamentally wrong—power relations and wealth inequities. The conspiracies are a symptom of the prevailing political economy—just like war, terrorism and fascism.

Fascism is predicated on the notion that there's a hidden elite—whether it's Jewish bankers or, in updated versions, the Trilateral Commission, Bilderberg, Illuminati or shape-shifting reptilians (about which more later)—who control everything, and are "the" problem. The obsession with hidden elites serves to let off the hook the real elite in plain sight. The problem ultimately is that we live under the capitalist system. That's why conspiranoia is inevitably a useful tool of those who seek to distract us from class analysis. The conspiracy theory of history has right-wing roots, and remains a phenomenon of the right. Its origins are in the writings of the reactionary 18th-century Jesuit Abbé Barruel, who blamed the French Revolution on the Templars. A century later his template was transformed into the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* [basically a translation of the Abbé's work concocted by the Czarist secret police]. This document first emerged along with the pogroms; Jewish villages were attacked as Jews were scapegoated for the rising revolution in Russia. It was adopted by Hitler to justify his Final Solution. Conspiracy theory is what fascism gives the "Little Man" instead of fundamental change in the system or overturning oppressive power. Especially with the Tea Party poised to exploit the ongoing economic agony in America with further scapegoating, we must not fall for it.

The Slippery Slope to Shape-Shifting Reptilians

WBAI's embrace of conspiracy theory started with the 9-11 musings of the *Loose Change* videos, the first to be offered as fund-drive premiums. But it got increasingly sinister and wacky from there. Eric Hufschmid, producer of the *Painful Deception* video, has a website full of anti-immigrant xenophobia and Holocaust revisionism. Of course, he uses the soft-sell approach— there isn't any in the 9-11 video. Go his website to see that he's a xenophobe and revisionist (read: likely Nazi-nostalgist).

Finally, in summer 2010, WBAI crossed the line, promoting a real neo-Nazi: former British sportscaster David Icke, who hawks the book *Alice in Wonderland and the World Trade Centre Disaster*. You don't have to dig deep to find Icke's Nazism. In the material WBAI aired, Icke spoke about the Bilderbergs and the Illuminati. What he says lies behind the global power nexus can be found at DavidIcke.com. In Icke's world, behind the the Bilderbergs and the Illuminati is the Rothschild banking family and associated powerful Jews—who are held to be literally inhuman. They are reptilian aliens from the Fourth Dimension who have shape-shifting abilities and can assume human form. (I'm not making this up—go to the website.)

The ideology behind all of this comes straight out of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, the notorious anti-Semitic forgery that was a pillar of Nazi propaganda. Icke's bizarre zeitgeist is a reworking of the *Protocols*, which he extensively cites on his website. The shape-shifting reptilians are admittedly Icke's own twist. But it's a common device of DIY Nazism to assert that the Jews are non-human. Christian Identity, which pervades much of the rural radical right in the US, believes only the white race is truly human; the others are sub-human or non-human. Brown-skinned "mud people" are sub-human. Jews are the non-human offspring of Satan. Both must be exterminated, the Jews with greater urgency due to their greater power.

Anti-Fascist Rhetoric of Contemporary Crypto-Fascism

Today on WBAI, you don't get very far openly calling yourself a Nazi. In fact, a standard contemporary invective is to compare present-day oppressors with the Nazis. How does Icke square this? By applying Hitler's ideology and propaganda to Hitler himself. In Hitler's world, everything bad was the creation of evil Jews in high places. So Icke says *Hitler* was created by the Rothschilds -- that Hitler was a Rothschild. And therefore Hitler, like most of those who run the world, was not human but a shape-shifting reptilian from the Fourth Dimension. Icke expounds this theory in a screed entitled "Was Hitler a Rothschild?" In a time-honored method, Icke mixes a few grains of truth in. Though considerably less so today, the Rothschilds were certainly a powerhouse of high finance in the 19th century, and funders of the early Zionist movement. But, betraying his hand quickly, Icke in the second paragraph refers to the Rothschilds as one of Europe's "black occult bloodlines, …working in league with the Illuminati House of Hesse." They are "one of the top Illuminati bloodlines on the planet, and …are shape-shifting reptilians."

Icke seizes on a rumor that Hitler's grandmother was impregnated by a Rothschild baron for whom she worked. Icke cites a book by US intelligence analyst Walter Langer, who looked into this theory after the war and in 1972 published his findings in *The Mind of Adolf Hitler*. If you read the book, you'll find Langer ultimately decided the rumor was insubstantial. Icke however, has no doubts. "[T]here was no way that someone like Hitler would come to power in those vital circumstances for the Illuminati, unless he was of the reptilian bloodline," he writes, adding that "the same bloodline has held the positions of royal, aristocratic, financial, political, military, and media power in the world for thousands of years [and] has produced ALL 42 of the Presidents of the US since and including George Washington in 1789... The World War II leaders Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin were of the bloodline and also Freemasons and Satanists. They were manipulated into office, and their country's war effort funded, by the Rothschilds and the other Illuminati bloodlines."

Icke asserts: "These people are NOT Jews, they're a non-human bloodline with a reptilian genetic code who hide behind the Jewish people and use them as a screen and a means to an end." He seems to think this disclaimer lets him off the hook for anti-Semitism. In a page on his website boosting the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, Icke writes: "I speak for Jews who oppose this secret plan which was concocted by Cabalist bankers and rabbis centuries ago and revised periodically. These self-appointed Jewish leaders have put all Jews in jeopardy. They are establishing their world tyranny by stealth." His tone quickly changes to a barely veiled threat: "All Jews will be blamed for the disproportionate role many Jews play unless more speak up and are counted."

Icke has on his website a billboard placed in Iowa by a local Tea Party that reads "RADICAL LEADERS PREY ON THE FEARFUL & NAIVE" below photos of Hitler, Lenin and Obama. The photos are labeled "National Socialism, Marxist Socialism and Democrat Socialism." Icke writes: "The billboard suggests Obama is a radical socialist leader similar to Hitler and Lenin. This is a true comparison... Obama, Hitler, and Lenin were all initially financed by Rothschild money… all three were puppets of the House of Rothschild." Icke is on a spectrum with the Tea Party movement, which is being mainstreamed with terrifying rapidity. Whether Icke is delusional or a charlatan, it's clear many Tea-Baggers think they're anti-fascist—even as they embrace such fascistic elements as paranoid anti-communism, populism, and open racism.

Leftists Take the Poison Bait

Why are WBAI and Pacifica, which should be a bulwark against fascism, promoting fascism? The left misses the boat on the populist lure of fascism, especially in its incipient phases. Before Hitler and Musolini cut their deal with big capital, they talked a vaguely anti-capitalist line. Then in 1934—the year after Hitler achieved power—the anti-capitalist brownshirt leaders were betrayed and killed in the Night of Long Knives. Hitler was consolidating his deal with German capitalists, the Krupps and Farbens, who would later use slave labor in the concentration camps.

Early fascism nearly always plays to populism and purports to mobilize the little guy against the all-powerful elite. Failure to grasp this is a grave error. The left uses the word "corporatism" to refer to fascism's deal with the bankers and industrialists. That deal was a defining element of classical fascism, but that isn't what "corporatism" meant. It referred to another element: the "incorporation" of populist institutions like trade unions into the apparatus of the ruling party. This element is invisible to nearly all on the left who warn of impending fascism. Blind to the populist element of fascism, we become vulnerable to its propaganda. Among those to exhibit this error is longtime left icon Fidel Castro. Havana's elder statesman has been writing a blog, "Reflections by Comrade Fidel," on the website of the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina. His Aug. 19 entry consists of an extended excerpt of *Secrets of the Bilderberg Club*. Fidel is quoting favorably. The quote includes a citation to far-right cult-master (and credit-card fraud felon) Lyndon LaRouche, in which he portrays the "Aquarian Conspiracy" of the "counterculture" as an insidious tool for social control. In the 1980s LaRouche was a big booster of Reagan's "Star Wars" program, which was instrumental in driving Cuba's Soviet patrons to collapse. In true fascist style, LaRouche weds paranoia about sinister banking conspiracies with a vicious anti-communism. Why is Fidel embracing a writer who embraces Lyndon LaRouche?**http://www.ww4report.com/node/8992**

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GrassrootsKPFK Wins Seats on LSB
Struggle for Community Radio Advances

The GrassrootsKPFK slate of human rights and liberation activists scored a major victory, winning half of the dozen open seats on the Pacifica Radio KPFK-FM Local Station Board (90.7 Los Angeles, 98.7 Santa Barbara). At the first new board meeting on December 1, Aryana Gladney Shakur of the Black Riders Liberaion Party, who had come in as first alternate on the GrassrootsKPFK slate in the recent election, took a seat on the LSB to fill a vacancy, along with new members Brenda Medina of MEChA, Michael Novick of ARA-LA/PART, Lydia Brazon of Humanitarian Law Project, and Chuck Anderson of OC Green Party, and staff representatives Omar Burdett and Jim Lafferty, all part of the GrassrootsKPFK slate. Lawrence Reyes of the Puerto Rican Alliance is now in the first alternate position in case of additional (likely) vacancies on the 24 member board.

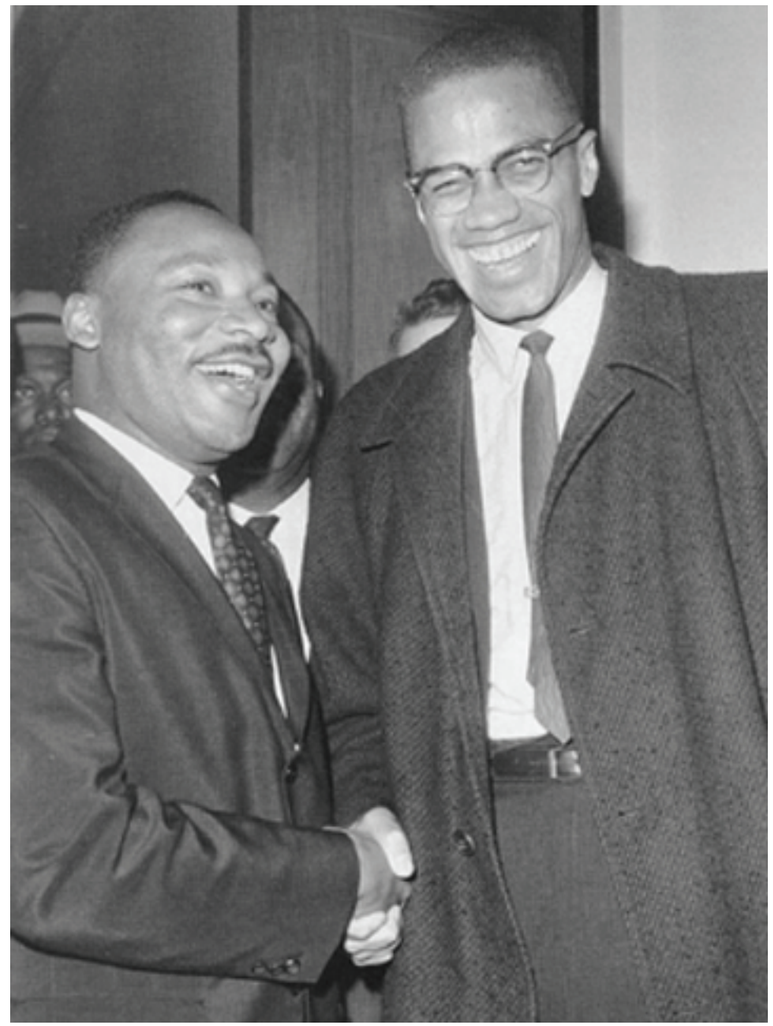
But the struggle for free speech, grassroots community radio continues. Revolutionary-minded and grassroots oriented programming from communities of color and working people, such as Dedon Kamathi**'s *Freedom Now*,** the Black women's show ***Some of Us Are Brave,*** and the ***Labor Review*** have been cut in length and moved around the station schedule like pawns on a chessboard, along with much of the Spanish-language programming, including the internationally-broadcast ***Informativo Pacifica***. Long-standing Spanish-language news and public affairs shows were shifted from their Saturday slot to accomplish the ghetto-ization of a lot of the Black programming. Meanwhile, the station has started to air programming from Public Radio International (corporate 'public' radio) as well as finding additional air-time for Democratic Party-oriented programmers of European descent, including comedians whose jokes are still focused on George W. Bush. As the station has lost its edge and sense of mission, fundraising from listeners has also dropped. A summer fund-drive that took all of June fell so far short that a second "summer of love" fund drive was needed in August. The same happened with the fall drive. Pitching most of October left the station so short of budgetary goals, that another additional "mini-drive" was required in December.

The ***GrassrootsKPFK*** members on the local station board, and the entire coalition, are committed to making the station more fiscally-transparent, communicative with and accountable to the community, and dedicated to addressing unmet community needs, providing a voice to the marginalized, ignored and colonized who create the wealth that sustains the station and the society. ***GrassrootsKPFK*** is planning a late winter teach-in and working conference on urban crisis in Los Angeles, looking at issues of housing, homelessness, gentrification, foreclosures, the privatization of public housing, food and water sovereignty, and environmental justice, in partnership with the grassroots groups struggling on the ground around these issues and building a fight back through methods of direct action, mutual aid and solidarity to overcome the problems. For more information, check www.grassrootskpfk.net, email grassrootskpfk@gmail.com, or call 310-495-0299. Join GrassrootsKPFK.Let KPFK managers know your thoughts.

Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

TURNING THE TIDE

A True Revolutionary is Guided by Great Feelings of Love!



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THREE STRIKES:
Calling the Empire Out!

The three strikes we're talking about are not the so-called "anti-crime" three strikes, repressive measures designed to lock people up for life and expand the criminal injustice system of mass incarceration. We are talking about three particular recent strikes -- of prisoners in Georgia, students in Puerto Ricco, and autonomous workers in Greece that point a way forward for popular struggle against austerity, exploitation and repression at the hands of the Empire. The Georgia prisoners, who organized themselves under conditions of incarceration and deprivation of basic human rights, and in the process overcame the racial divisions fomented by the colonial prison system to control the prisoner class, demonstrated the constantly unexpected power of the people. The student strikers in Puerto Rico also overcame divisions about status in a colonized country, resisted government austerity and united the larger working population behind their demands. They point a way forward for US students facing new austerity measures, budget, program and staffing cuts and fee increases, just as the British response to similar measures does (the British students bumrushed the "Prince of Wales"). The autonomist workers' militant general strike in Greece against the austerity conditions imposed by the European central banks and the IMF and World Bank demonstrate that passivity in the face of exploitation, austerity and repression is not a genetic predisposition of Europeans. If Europeans in Europe can break with business unionism and reformism, and confront the state and the corporations, then eventually European-descent workers in the US are also surely capable of breaking with racism, reaction and settler colonialism to confront the bosses and their enforcers here.--***Ed.***

Georgia Prisoners' Strike Largest in US History

From reports by Davey D, Black Agenda Report

Here are the demands of the prisoners who collectively launched on December 9 the Georgia Prison Strike, the biggest prisoner protest in the history of the US. Thousands of men, from Augusta, Baldwin, Hancock, Hays, Macon, Smith and Telfair State Prisons, among others, Black, Mexicano/indigenous, Asian and white, jointly initiated this strike. They pressed the GA Dept. of Corrections ("DOC") to stop treating them like animals and slaves and institute programs that address their basic human rights. They want:

*** A LIVING WAGE FOR WORK**
*** EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**
*** DECENT HEALTH CARE**
*** AN END TO CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENTS**
*** DECENT LIVING CONDITIONS**
*** NUTRITIONAL MEALS**
*** VOCATIONAL AND SELF-IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**
*** ACCESS TO FAMILIES**
*** JUST PAROLE DECISIONS**

Despite the non-violent protest of staying in their cells and refusing to work, the DOC used violence, threats and other provocations —claiming it was "lawful" to order prisoners to work without pay. As employers use a lock-out against workers, the DOC used a lockdown against the prisoners. In Augusta State Prison, six or seven inmates were brutally ripped from their cells by CERT Team guards and beaten, resulting in broken ribs for several men, one man beaten beyond recognition. At Telfair, the Tactical Squad trashed all the property in inmate cells. At Macon, the Tac Squad has menaced the men for two days, removing some to the "hole," and the warden ordered the heat and hot water turned off. Inmate leaders, representing blacks, Hispanics, whites, Muslims, Rastafarians, Christians, have stated the men will continue to struggle by various means until their demands are addressed, one issuing this statement:

"…Brothers, we have accomplished a major step in our struggle…We must continue what we have started… The only way to achieve our goals is to continue with our peaceful sit-down…I ask each and every one of my Brothers in this struggle to continue the fight. ON MONDAY MORNING, WHEN THE DOORS OPEN, CLOSE THEM. DO NOT GO TO WORK. They cannot do anything to us that they haven't already done at one time or another. Brothers, DON'T GIVE UP NOW. Make them come to the table. Be strong. DO NOT MAKE MONEY FOR THE STATE THAT THEY IN TURN USE TO KEEP US AS SLAVES…."

When the strike began, prisoner leaders issued the following call: "No more slavery. Injustice in one place is injustice to all. Inform your family to support our cause. Lock down for liberty!" Although the job action has ended for the moment, continue to call the warden's offices of the following Georgia State Prisons expressing concern for the welfare of the prisoners and support for their demands.

Macon State Prison is 978-472-3900. Hays State Prison is at (706) 857-0400. Telfair State prison is 229-868-7721. Baldwin State Prison is at (478) 445- 5218. Valdosta State Prison is 229-333-7900. Smith State Prison is at (912) 654-5000. The Georgia Department of Corrections is at http://www.dcor.state.ga.us and their phone number is 478-992-5246.

There is also an on-line petition in solidarity with the prisoners' demands at http://www.petitiononline.com/wagesnow/petition.html

Elaine Brown, former chair of the Black Panther Party in its last phase, has helped establish a broad-based coalition to support the prisoners, whcih you can find at the following URL: (see Georgia, p. 2)

Puerto Rican Student Strike Re-Emerges

Translation and summary for ***TTT*** from pr.indymedia.org

In mid-December, students at the 11 campuses of the University of Puerto Rico went out on strike after the colonial government reneged on commitments they made in order to end a campus occupation which had taken over 10 of the 11 campuses with extensive community support earlier in the year. Despite agreements to the contrary, the UPR began to impose new higher tuition fees, and the students renewed their resistance.

On days 3-4 of the strike at the Rio Piedras campus of the University of Puerto Rico, on Thursday and Friday Dec. 16-17, 2010, the riot police were mobilized to retake control of the campus. To block the entrances to the campus on Thursday morning, the Fuerza de Choque/SWAT team was divided to cut off each of the gates. As a result, the inside of the campus was almost deserted. As in prior days, the police tactic was to mobilize various units of the Strike Force with their shields and tear gas rifles with the intention of pushing back the protesters. They repeated announcements over loudspeakers that the protesters were breaking the law by blocking traffic lanes, and had 5 minutes to disperse.

Instead of retreating, students decide to go meet everyone at the main gate for a mass demonstration. The theater group Paper Machete presented an exciting street theater, which featured a new character, Doña Fee, a beauty queen with a document urging students to take out a loan to pay the increased fee. The demonstration continued outside the main gate late into the afternoon. At the entrance, the police responded by setting up a tent to stay there permanently.

That same day, Gov. Luis Fortuño spoke to the country about the situation in the UPR at 5pm on all TV channels and radio stations. His main intention was to justify the deployment of excessive force during the conflict of the Shock troops with the strikers. He chose the baton instead of dialogue. That night there was a demonstration held through the streets of Rio Piedras.

Meanwhile, security officers were stationed at the gates and asked all who wanted to enter for identification. The purpose of this lock-out was to try to reduce numbers in the demonstrations that took place within the campus. Despite being told of the established system of using ID only to request services and never for the purpose of accessing the facilities, the officers turned a deaf ear. In other cases, the guards asked for college ID only from those who'd been seen engaging in any activity classified as "demonstrators." Campus spokespersons also reported incidents of sexual harassment from police officers, who would whistle, make comments, and throw lascivious winks and looks at students while they were walking to their residences. They also escorted some students off the campus against their will.

Around noon on day 4, picketers reassembled at the law office of McConnell & Valdes, legal representatives of the UPR, protesting the waste of money because of their inflated contracts. Many of the repressive measures introduced by the UPR administration were carried out under the advisement of this firm. Protesters also picketed the office of University Trustee Luis Berrios, former Gov. Rossello's lawyer and representative of the Senate in the Public-Private Partnership.

After an intense first week of striking and in defiance of the state repression, the students closed it out very creatively. At 2 pm the slogans of student struggle began to echo in the Terrace food court of Plaza Las Americas, the largest mall in the Caribbean. That's when strikers and other supporters, who had begun arriving in the food court of the huge mall in Hato Rey at 1 pm and had remained scattered to avoid arousing suspicion, gathered around the bullhorn that gave the signal to start the demonstration

(see Puerto Rico, p. 2)

Report from the General Strike in Greece

Excerpted from: http://en.contrainfo.espiv.net/2010/12/16/weve-got-the-rage-report-from-the-general-strike-in-greece-december-15th-2010/

No doubt remains, even for the most naive, that the State in close cooperation with all its supporters and mechanisms has decided to wage a full-scale war against society. They are afraid of the natural social rage expressed so far, but also the rage to come. The repressive role of the State, as expressed through the murderous mechanism of the Greek Police has now begun to spread its tentacles. Fascists, undercover cops, obedient householders, so-called peace-loving citizens, and other social dregs have been recruited to act like a natural extension of this murderous formation. It should concern us all; something that was happening before but is now full-fledged, in the most indiscriminate, naked and shameless way. It's happening right before our eyes!

Athens: It's a city full of police officers of all kinds on every corner, in a transparent effort to terrorize people and make the city an inaccessible place, controlled by them. Nevertheless. since the early morning of December 15, huge numbers of people started to flock to the assembly points in the center of Athens. Every part of Patission Avenue, from Areos' Field to Omonia Square, was full of people, while the sidewalks were becoming increasingly crowded too. Some rough estimates talk of 200,000 people, a number that can only compare to the seminal May 5th General Strike. Before the demonstration started, there where at least three cases in which undercover cops were expelled from the demonstration after the dynamic intervention of comrades. In one case, they attempted to arrest four comrades who were heading to the gathering point with spears and banners, but the forceful intervention of 50-60 people stopped them from doing so.

There were lots of people properly prepared (with masks, maalox and various self-protection materials), a fact strongly reflecting the confrontational mood of a fairly large part of the demo. The clashes began when the main part of the demo arrived at Syntagma square. Large numbers of demonstrators attacked the patrons of the local ruling class and Capital. For a long time, explosions could be heard around the square. There were attacks with molotov cocktails, stones, dynamite, fire extinguishers, etc. against several squads around Syntagma, as well as were melees with the MAT forces (riot police) and the thugs of the DIAS motorcycle police. The MAT forces responded with tear gas and flash-bang grenades, in this way cutting the demo into various parts. Yet in so doing, they only succeeded in spreading the conflicts into various areas of the city center.

Protesters managed to repel the cops and set a police paddy wagon on fire. At various parts of the center, people successfully faced off the brutal police raids. At Alexandra Avenue, two DIAS motorcycle cops were beaten by angry demonstrators, who burned both their bikes. A spontaneous march by the Primary Unions and the AK (Antiauthoritarian Movement), moved toward the main building of GSEE (General Confederation of Greek Workers) in order to occupy it. But the cops' superiority in numbers managed to deter them. Some cops pulled their guns.

Clashes continued around the Polytechnic School for several hours, while scores remained trapped inside by riot police. Behind the University of Economics and around the Polytechnic, there were scattered clashes with cops in the street and barricades, as well down other streets of Exarchia, with people playing cat and mouse with the police after the end of the main demo. There were reports that the neighborhood of Exarchia has been completely militarized.

(see Greece, p. 2)

GEORGIA

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http://www.facebook.com/pages/Concerned-Coalition-to-Respect-Prisoners-Rights

HIP-HOP MUST RESPOND TO THE GEORGIA PRISONERS' STRIKE

By Dr. Boyce Williams

Any fan of hip-hop knows that prison culture and experience is a fundamental part of rap. For good or bad, nearly every "gangsta" rapper in America has either been to prison, has a friend in prison, is on his way to prison or is in prison right now. Given the amount of experience that many rappers have with the human rights abuses that take place in America's penitentiaries, you would hope that the hip hop community would be the first in line to support the prison inmate strike in Georgia.

But horrific issues like prison rape, overcrowding, the inability to find a job upon release and Draconian sentences for non-violent offenders and youth remain unaddressed. To date, we are more likely to hear about a rapper being blinged out with a bottle of Cristal than we are to hear an artist expressing genuine love and concern for what's happening to their loved ones who are incarcerated.

In case you're not hip to what's happening right now, let me brief you: the US incarcerates more citizens than any other country in the world. We incarcerate 16 times more people per capita than the Chinese. Additionally, a disproportionate number are black.

One of three black boys born in 2001 will spend time in state or federal pens. Corporations earn billions from involuntary labor of prison inmates, and many who lobby for tougher crime laws have a direct financial stake in mass incarceration.

Remember that the power of the state to define someone as a criminal is arbitrary (even Jesus and Martin Luther King were "criminals" according to the state). Black men are searched, arrested and incarcerated at far greater frequencies than other ethnic groups. The US has been criticized by the UN for having a two-tiered system, one for whites and one for blacks.

In fact, the 13th Amendment, which allegedly abolishes slavery, says it is still legal to enslave another human being, as long as you find a way to label him/her as a criminal

The inmates in Georgia are not asking for much, just a chance to rehabilitate if they choose to do so. To date, there is no bigger producer and creator of criminals than the US prison system. If you are not a criminal when you go in, you'll probably be one by the time you get out – that makes our society more dangerous for everyone.

The hip hop community, rather than writing lyrics to glorify incarceration and excessive materialism, may want to consider doing things that challenge the systems that enslave hundreds of thousands of black people.

They should be speaking up on how to stop the abuses taking place in our prisons and advocate for rehabilitation for those who want to be accepted by society. Making a mistake at a young age does not mean you should be punished for life, and prison inmates are not worthless.

Hip-hop artists, with their powerful platforms, should use their collective voice to make a difference. Your brothers and sisters in the penitentiary need your help, and the GA prison strike is a great opportunity to get started.

Dr. Boyce Watkins is a Professor at Syracuse University and founder of the Your Black World Coalition at **www.YourBlackWorld.com.**

PUERTO RICO

continued from p.1

Nearly 300 people kicked off the spree in the form of an indoor march. Once on the march, they brought together more than 400 additional people.

Repression is continuing against the strikers.

For more news and photos, check out Indymedia Puerto Rico at **http://pr.indymedia.org**

University of Puerto Rico students and supporters face off against riot police.

GREECE

continued from p. 1

One caller to the 98 anarchist radio station reported witnessing the police stop two people walking down the street in Exarchia, and beat them badly before arresting them. Fresh attacks by MAT caused multiple injuries to demonstrators. 23 people were detained, of whom 10 have been arrested and charged. There were powerful actions in provincial cities around Greece against sell-out unions, and clashes between cops and protesters. while in most there were scores of cops and especially undercover agents. P.A.M.E (the syndicalist union of the "Communist" Party) organized separate demos in each city, separating itself from the people's wrath.

Thessaloniki: A mass demo by more than 10,000 workers, unemployed, students, grassroots unions, leftists, anarchists and angry people in general! A large part of demonstrators marched from the gathering point of Kamara toward the Labor Center where there was gathering point and speech by the corrupted unions of GSEE (General Confederation of Greek Workers) and others. Anarchists shouted slogans against these unions, mics and speakers were disconnected, and demonstrators called for a "wildcat strike". Along the route of this "intervention demo" texts were distributed to store workers who were not on strike their bosses had threatened some with dismissal should they strike.

During the powerful demonstration that started at around 11:00, ATMs, banks, large chain stores, McDonalds and Closed Circuit TV cameras were smashed. When the demo arrived at the region's main administrative building, cops came out and attacked the demo using tear gas and flash bang grenades with no provocation. Riot cops and undercovers detained around 20 people from the demo and from building entrances, using an unmarked van. Two or three of those detained were injured and in need of hospital treatment, so the cops turned their detentions into arrests in order to justify the injuries.

Patras: More than 4,000 people marched through the streets. There were attacks with stones and molotov cocktails against the local Courthouse, several banks and a police van. A passive march of a similar size was also organized by P.A.M.E.

Heraklion (Crete): Massive demonstration in the morning with around 2000 grassroots unionists, unemployed, immigrants, leftists, anarchists etc. Some leftists blocked the speeches of the Labor Center's president and other corrupt labor representatives. Cops trailed the protesters, but there were no clashes even though people smashed windows and painted slogans. In the afternoon an anarchist march was also held in the city's neighborhoods.

Chania (Crete): Around 1,500 people marched in the city. Blocks of workers, unemployed, students, anarchists and leftist groups but also a block of immigrants who had managed to go on strike participated in the demo. Some people used stink bombs to disrupt business.

Volos: Very massive demo of about 2,500 people. Before the march begun, speeches of local parties representatives and corrupted syndicalist were blocked. Symbolic attacks against banks and the Prefecture building.

Xanthi: One of the largest demos the city has seen. 1,500 people marched downtown, slogans were written on walls and paint was thrown at banks.

Ioannina: Powerful demo of about 2000 people with awesome pulse in the city center. Agricultural tractors also joined in the demonstration.

Similar demonstrations/marches by hundreds of people were held in many other cities and islands of Greece, such as Kavala, Veria, Aigio, Zakynthos, Larissa, Corfu, Lesvos, Naxos, Rethymnon, Serres, and Sparta.

FREEDOM TO ALL HOSTAGES!

WHAT DOES MUMIA FACE LEGALLY AFTER THE NOVEMBER 9th HEARING BEFORE THE THIRD CIRCUIT?

The only legal options that were considered by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, a federal court immediately below the US Supreme Court, at the November 9 hearing were whether Mumia Abu-Jamal is to be executed or get life in prison without parole. The question of Mumia's guilt or innocence and the opportunity of a new trial were not part of this hearing. The Third Circuit decided that issue in March 2008 in a decision made by the same three judges who conducted this hearing.

To grasp the significance of this hearing, one needs to revisit Federal District Court Judge William Yohn, Jr.'s decision of December 18, 2001. In that ruling the judge upheld Mumia's conviction, but at the same time threw out his death sentence on the grounds that the verdict form used by the jury for sentencing at his trial violated the U.S. Supreme Court's *Mills* precedent, thereby prejudicing the jury toward the death penalty rather than life in prison. Yohn then gave the state 180 days to convene a new jury trial only on the issue of Mumia's penalty, in which the choices would be either death or life in prison without parole. On the other hand, if the state did nothing, Yohn ruled that Mumia would automatically be sentenced to life in prison without parole.

At the time he made this decision, Judge Yohn stayed his ruling on overturning the death sentence while the prosecution appealed his decision to the next higher level of federal court, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. (At the same time Mumia appealed Judge Yohn's decision upholding his conviction). Mumia was therefore never removed from Death Row and remains there to this day.

On March 27, 2008, the Third Circuit upheld Yohn's decision on the death penalty in a 3-0 vote. Again the decision was stayed while the state appealed to the highest federal level, the Supreme Court. (In the same decision, the Third Circuit rejected Mumia's appeal on the conviction by 2-1 that is, upholding the guilty verdict. As before, Mumia appealed that ruling.)

On April 6, 2009 the US Supreme Court refused to hear Mumia's appeal of the Third Circuit's decision upholding his conviction.

On January 10, 2010, the Supreme Court ordered the Third Circuit to reconsider its decision on the death sentence in light of its unanimous rejection of an appeal from a white-supremacist named Spisak. That man admitted to killing at least two people in Ohio and openly stated that he wished to have murdered more. He had appealed his death sentence also as a violation of the Mills precedent, but involving a different aspect of it than in Mumia's case. The Sixth Circuit, as did the Third Circuit in Mumia's case, ruled that the death sentence should be thrown out. However, the Supreme Court ruled that the *Mills* precedent did not apply in Spisak's case, and therefore execution, rather than life in prison, was the appropriate penalty. Based on that decision, the Supreme Court questioned the Third Circuit's ruling in Mumia's case, and asked it to reconsider the issue of execution for him as well.

Thus, the hearing on November 9th was on Mumia's penalty only. The choices before the court were either to sustain Yohn's and its own earlier decisions or to reinstate the death penalty. According to those in the courtroom, the attorney who represented Mumia on this issue, Judith Ritter, argued in favor of the applicability of the *Mills* precedent very convincingly. On that basis Mumia's death sentence should not be reinstated. The history of Mumia's case, however, has shown, as in the argument of racial bias in jury selection made before the same three judges three years ago, that precedent and effective argumentsare often ignored by the court. This is in favor of a political agenda at least to keep Mumia locked up, if not to see him executed and completely silenced. That racial bias issue easily could have resulted in Mumia's conviction being thrown out, but in a split 2-1 vote, the judges established a new precedent just for Mumia. (All three judges blew off the question of Mumia's innocence). After hearing the new arguments and asking questions, Chief Judge Scirica said that the court would 'take the matter under advisement.') It may be months before a decision is announced.

If the Third Circuit reaffirms its earlier decision to sentence Mumia to life in prison without parole, the state will most likely appeal again to the Supreme Court. If that court agrees with the Third Circuit, or in the unlikely event that the state doesn't appeal at all, the state then will have 180 days to implement Judge Yohn's decision (to let the life sentence stand, or to empanel a new jury to consider the penalty phase).

In that case the prosecution could set a new penalty trial (which would take place in a Pennsylvania state court) in the hope of "winning" a death sentence again. Mumia would actually want the latter to happen, since it would give him some opportunity to introduce new evidence challenging the prosecution's version of what happened on December 9, 1981, which was the basis for the jury's guilty verdict at his 1982 trial. Thus, while this proceeding would not be a trial on the question of guilt or innocence, but only a hearing on the sentencing issue, new evidence that could undermine Mumia's conviction itself might be introduced.

If the Third Circuit rules against Mumia on the death penalty issue, Mumia will surely appeal to the Supreme Court. But the odds for the Supreme Court to overturn a Third Circuit decision favoring execution are very small, given the reactionary composition of that court.

However, even if the Supreme Court rules for a death sentence, Mumia would still have some legal options. Back in 2001, when Yohn threw out the death penalty based on the Mills precedent, he did not deal with several other issues raised by the defense. Therefore, Mumia would have the right to go back before Judge Yohn and ask him to address these other significant issues related to the improper sentencing process at his trial. Such a hearing, though limited to life in prison or execution, would inevitably also include challenges to the prosecution's version of what happened at the crime scene. This would especially be true if grassroots work continues to expose the fraudulent nature of the trial and appeals process as has been done dramatically in the last few years. For example, this work won the release of the long hidden photographs of the crime scene, and the evidence that four people, not three, were present at that scene. This would also be true if grassroots work continues to press for a Department of Justice civil rights investigation and draws greater support and activism. Not only might the death penalty be once again overturned, but Mumia's conviction itself might get thrown out.

Mumia's legal situation remains extremely dangerous as the re-imposition of the death sentence would surely be a big setback in his struggle to demonstrate his innocence. The authorities in Philadelphia are mobilizing for Mumia's execution, and the Supreme Court seems likely to be sympathetic to that agenda. But even with that being said, the right that remains for Mumia to go back to Judge Yohn is very important for opening up space to expose the level of injustice, the violation of due process, and the racism that has permeated the entire history of this case. While the US legal system looks very powerful and impenetrable to justice, the grassroots movement in the US combined with international pressure could force the courts to make decisions that they otherwise would not. Surely Mumia's being alive today, despite three attempts to kill him, twice with scheduled execution days, is a tribute to the massive struggles waged by people across this globe.

The Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition

International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal

Mumia is Innocent! Stop the Frame Up!
Free Mumia!

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition, NYC
P.O. Box 16, College Station, NY, NY 10030
212-330-8029, www.FreeMumia.com , info@ FreeMumia.com

OBAMA: Clinton With a Tan

[column written 12/12/10] © 2010
by Mumia Abu-Jamal

As rumblings of discontent arose in the wake of the extension of the Bush era tax cuts by the Obama administration, President Barack Obama pulled out his secret weapon: former President William Jefferson Clinton.

Clinton before a bank of microphones is always a sight to behold, for few politicians have his peculiar mix of pure intelligence, down home folksy charm and sheer performance skills.

It is a measure of our politics that the system elected a man who was virtually a Clinton clone: born to poor and working class people; educated in Ivy League schools; advocates of globalism and neo liberalism, and servants of the business class.

When we recollect the acrimony and bad blood that flowed between the two camps during the campaign, and the post election integration and indeed immersion of Clintonites into all levels of the Obama administration, why should we be surprised when the president runs into a bad squall, and he calls out Bill Clinton?

Bill Clinton, perhaps the most talented politician of his generation, was also Salesman in Chief of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), the pact that dealt a body blow to the very same working class that would be implored to vote for Hillary Clinton in 2008. We have forgotten the almost comic H. Ross Perot, the Independent who opposed Clinton and Bush during the 1992 and '96 elections, based primarily on his anti-NAFTA stance. Perot warned, in so many words, 'If you pass that NAFTA, all you'll hear is a giant sucking sound of jobs and manufacturers goin' to Mexico!'

People laughed at his Texas twang, his big ears, and his lack of height, while Bush and Clinton pooh-poohed his warnings as silly.

We live now amidst the post-NAFTA carnage that has brought mass disaster to both countries.

Only the rich and super rich benefited from NAFTA, as workers in the USA adapted to the new and grim economic realities, and workers in Mexico either joined the burgeoning drug industry or fled to El Norte (to the US) to find work in the fields of agriculture or carpentry.

It is therefore fitting that Obama would call in Clinton, for the man could sell ice to the Inuits, or sand to the Saudis, can surely sell the perverse notion of tax cuts to billionaires...right?

The Power of Truth is Final -- Free Mumia!

Audio of most of Mumia's essays are at:
http://www.prisonradio.org

http://mumiapodcast.libsyn.com/
Mumia's got a podcast! Mumia Abu-Jamal's Radio Essays - Subscribe at the website or on iTunes and get Mumia's radio commentaries online.

Mumia Abu-Jamal's new book --
JAILHOUSE LAWYERS:
PRISONERS DEFENDING
PRISONERS V. THE USA,
featuring an introduction by Angela Y. Davis
has been released! It is available from City Lights Books:
http://www.citylights.com/
book/?GCOI3D87286100448090

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212-330-8029

Send our brotha some LOVE and LIGHT at:

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WE WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM CANNOT REST!

Brown Riders Liberation Party

By Comrade Meztli Yaotl

In the spirit of the Black Panthers and the Brown Berets, a new revolutionary group for the people has been born, the Brown Riders Liberation Party. In full alliance with the Black Riders Liberation Party, we have come together to unify our Brown and Black brothers and sisters during this urgent time in which the fascist state is attacking from every corner. With the resurgence of White Nationalism and White Supremacist groups, coupled with the support of the state's anti-migrant, anti-brown stance, and unparalleled police brutality, we must come together to defeat this monster.

For centuries past and present, our people, both Brown and Black, have been viciously oppressed. They have been murdered, raped, enslaved, forcibly assimilated, lynched, and robbed of their most sacred. For centuries past and present, our people have fought and defended our own when the enemies have come to our gates. Today, more than ever before, it is essential that we fight the circumstances under which we lie. Like our revolutionary brothers and sisters before us -- such as Shaka Zulu, Emiliano Zapata, Malcolm X, the Black Liberation Army, Pancho Villa, Montezuma, Comandante Ramona, and Che Guevara, and countless, nameless, faceless others -- we must look past what society has offered us as reality, what society has offered us as our only choice, and come to terms with what has been placed before us. The fact stands: WE ARE AT WAR!

Our rights and dignity as human beings have been essentially denied through the advent of SB 1070 in Arizona. SB 1070 is testimony to this Nation's objective to EXTERMINATE our people, as blatant racism is now (and has been) part of this country's policy against the people, upon whose backs this nation was built. SB 1070 specifically calls for racial profiling, requesting that anyone suspected of being an "illegal" (Brown), show three forms of identification, proof of their citizenship (which, in this country, most times, means proof of our right to dignity). This is the beginnings of an openly fascist state, where now you must present papers, just as Slaves back in the day had to prove their status in society. Except now, those without are not taken back to their slave masters, but held in detention camps indefinitely or transported to an unknown locale south of the border.

Backed by the Immigration Customs Enforcement and Border Control, the Minutemen, (a Neo-Nazi militia), patrols the borders while maiming, torturing and murdering all those they deem illegal aliens. This is an act of genocide disguised as US Patriotism, where essentially, racists are legitimized by an illegitimate state to commit mass murder on our people. We must stand up and reclaim what is ours. Genocide is an act of war!

Furthermore, everyday, a protracted war of genocide is enacted on both Black and Brown locally, in our communities. The police, AKA, THE PIGS, are the main culprits. Police brutality is rampant in our communities. The recent deaths of Manuel Jaminez, Oscar Grant, Carlos Riviera and De'Andre Brunston are a sure reminder (De'Andre Brunston, who by the way, was brutally machine-gunned down in front of a house, left to die on the door steps for an hour, while THE PIGS airlifted their K-9 unit they sent to attack him, within only minutes). With these deaths, an echo was sent forth like a rolling thunder through out the community: a reminder for those that have become complacent. We are reminded that even in the present, our lives still mean nothing to them.

We are reminded that *la policia* isn't here to help us, to protect or serve us… and historically, they never have. They are here to protect the wealthy, the elite and capital. We are reminded that racism is not over as they continue to beat us, lynch us, killing us in cold blood, with no remorse and no accountability, even in the wake of the first Black President! We are reminded that we are just as much citizens as we were when we were trapped on the plantations picking cotton, building railroads, and getting slaughtered off by the millions trying to protect the lands that were stolen from us and that we were stolen from, all to build their empire, which has stretched around the world with the same effects! We must realize our true histories, and how our pasts are intertwined and bound by the roots, through blood, solidarity, bullet proof love and revolution.

The time has come for disunity between our people to end. The main strategy of COINTELPRO, is to neutralize threats of dissidence. "Divide and conquer" is one of the most effective strategies used to disrupt resistance movements. "Divide and conquer" is what they use to maintain these towers of oppression to keep us enslaved and complacent with our oppressor, yet enraged at our brothers and sisters whom we desperately need to make revolution possible. We stay so fixated on fighting our family, that we leave ourselves vulnerable to attack from the oppressor who is left untouched and unnoticed like a mosquito on the wall waiting to spread its disease.

We stand at polarized ends listening to the lies that they spread to us about ourselves and never question the reality of things. "Illegals are stealing our jobs!" "Black people are just too lazy." Reality is, Capitalism always creates classism, so the poor and unemployed is a symptom of an ongoing issue.

"Illegals are hurting the economy by contributing nothing and leeching off of Federal Programs that our taxes pay!" When reality stands that, America purposely neglects the poor, aid and welfare programs provided. Even more so, many of us provide labor for wages that are only a fraction of what employed US citizens would earn, saving corporations millions and boosting the U.S. economy as a consequence of our own exploitation.

"Illegals don't belong here. Go back to where you came from!" When reality is that, from the tip of North America, to the bottom of South America, we were always here, and long before any European. For instance, Amerigo Vespucci, whom America is named after, or Christopher Columbus, who "discovered" a continent already inhabited with millions of people, who neither needed or desired to be "discovered." We were here long before Europeans set foot on this continent, let alone before they conceptualized that the earth was round and far larger than the small and incomplete world they lived in. Europeans are the real "illegal immigrants" who raped our people and stole and pillaged our lands at the taking, just to turn around about 500 years later and say "We must reclaim the Southwest. 'THEY' are taking over!"

The time has come to reclaim our histories, our culture, our GOD, our tongues, and our DIGNITY. We can't sit by idly and watch this world crumble and die while the greedy of this world do all that they can to remain on top and destroy all that breathes. We don't have a choice. Our future generations are depending on us, just as we have depended on our ancestors to reach this point in time.

Our ancestors did not die in vain over the middle passage and all the countless wars and battles they fought to keep our legacies, our humanity, and our spirits intact. We have an obligation to do all that we can to preserve life. You either ride or you die. Simple as that. As Zapata put it, "I would rather die on my feet, than live on my knees". We must ride for our people, as Malcolm X said, "BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY!" That's for damn sure!

WE RIDE FOR THE IMMEDIATE END TO POLICE BRUTALITY AND MURDER OF BROWN PEOPLE.

WE RIDE BECAUSE WE BELIEVE WE CAN END POLICE BRUTALITY IN OUR BROWN COMMUNITY BY ORGANIZING BROWN SELF-DEFENSE GROUPS DEDICATED TO DEFENDING OUR BROWN COMMUNITY FROM RACIST POLICE OPPRESSION AND BRUTALITY.

THE 2ND AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION GIVES A RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS.

WE BELIEVE THAT ALL BROWN PEOPLE SHOULD ARM THEMSELVES FOR SELF-DEFENSE

THE SAME RACIST DOG THAT BIT YOU, BIT US TOO!
WE MUST MASS TOGETHER TO KILL THAT RACIST DOG!

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

Brown Riders Liberation Party

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General Emiliano Zapata, leader of the 20th Century Mexican Revolution

JERICHO AMNESTY MOVEMENT
TO FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND P.O.W.s

by LA Jericho

Jericho is a movement with the defined goal of gaining recognition of the fact that political prisoners and prisoners of war exist inside of the United States despite the United States' government's continued denial ... and winning amnesty and freedom for these political prisoners. In November, the Jericho Amnesty Movement held a successful two-day national meeting in Richmond VA, bringing together representatives of chapters around the country as well as other organizations interested in the campaign to free all political prisoners and POWs. JAM adopted a new structure and mechanisms of accountability, featuring a steering committee composed of chapter representatives and elected national staff. Jericho also launched a new campaign for amnesty, clemency, pardons or other forms of release for the political prisoners still held as a result of COINTELPRO attacks on the Black liberation, American Indian, Puerto Rican independence and other movements. Jericho rededicated itself to connecting the issue of political prisoners to the struggles and communities they are part of and to the larger prison system, as well as to relating the continuing manifestations of COINTELPRO in Homeland Security and the USA PATRIOT Act.

Background

The Jericho Movement grew out of a call for a national march on the White House during spring break 1998 by political prisoner Jalil Muntaqim The call was made in October of 1996 through the Provisional Government–Republic of New Afrika and the New Afrikan Liberation Front, but the organizers decided to use this opportunity to jumpstart a much needed movement to build a united national support organization for political prisoners in general.

The Jericho March

Jericho98 was the collective work of over 50 organizations, defense committees and groups, 64 Jericho Organizing Committees and Students for Jericho making the issue of Recognition and Amnesty for U.S.-held political prisoners and prisoners of war a national one with its successful demonstration and rally at the White House.

The organizers who made up the Jericho Organizing Committees were/are just as diverse as the demonstrators who came from all across the United States, crossing the spectrum. The Jericho Movement was clear that we had to build a movement that left no political prisoner out there on his or her own again if we were to succeed in winning this struggle against racism, classism, and all forms of oppression.

The Beginning of a New Commitment

The March 27, 1998 demonstration was just the beginning of a whole new commitment to supporting these political prisoners and demanding recognition and amnesty for them. There are hundreds of people who went to prison as a result of their work on the streets against oppressive conditions like indecent housing and inadequate or complete lack of medical care, lack of quality education, police brutality and the murder of people organizing for independence and liberation. These people belonged to organizations like the Black Panther Party, La Raza Unida, FALN, Los Macheteros, North American Anti-Imperialist Movement, May 19th, AIM, the Black Liberation Army, etc., and were incarcerated because of their political beliefs and acts in support of and/or in defense of freedom. Since the founding of Jericho, some political prisoners have been freed. Others, unfortunately, have died in captivity. And new political prisoners are being incarcerated regularly by this repressive, exploitative system.

There is Work to be Done

At the present time there are Jericho chapters operating in California, New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and across the country. Then, too, Jericho is working with local defense committees to bring the cases of individual political prisoners to the public. Building a bond across organizational lines is what Jericho is about ... that's where our strength lies.

The Jericho Movement addresses four principal issues:

1. Build the Amnesty Campaign by locating political prisoners, compiling dossiers on them, and building the case for amnesty.

2. Continuing Educational Campaign about the existence of Political Prisoners inside the U.S.

3. The Jericho Legal Defense Fund provides supportive expenses for lawyers and law students etc. to provide legal defense for political prisoners.

4. The Jericho Medical Project fights for high quality medical care for political prisoners. Jericho activists regularly visit with and bring family members to see political prisoners, write them and send commissary funds, as well as campaign to prison authorities on their behalf.

How Can You Help?

Organize speaking engagements about political prisoners in your church, school, or community. Write to one or more political prisoners – an extensive list is maintained on our web-site at http://www.thejerichomovement.com/prisoners.html. Volunteer to work on one of the projects of the Jericho Movement. Make a financial contribution to Jericho. Make all checks or money orders payable to: Jericho and mail them to: The Jericho Movement, P.O. Box 1272, New York, NY 10013. If you want your contribution to be tax-deductible, please make checks payable to Jericho/IFCO. Organize a Jericho Amnesty Movement chapter in your area. Contact the nearest local chapter to get involved:

National Jericho Movement: www.thejerichomovement.com, P.O. Box 1272, NY, NY 10013 nationaljericho@gmail.com

Albuquerque Jericho Movement: P.O. Box 40473, Albuquerque, NM 87196 www.albq-jericho.org • albq.jericho@gmail.com

Cleveland Jericho Movement: P.O. Box 201923, Shaker Hts, OH 44120 cle.jericho@gmail.com • 216-645-0714

Jericho Amnesty Movement LA: c/o BRLP, PO Box 8297 Los Angeles, CA 90008, 310-495-0299; jerichoamnestylosangeles@gmail.com

New Jersey Jericho Movement: jerseyjericho@gmail.com • contact: 973-738-2205

New York City Jericho Movement: P.O. Box 1272, New York, NY 10013, 718-325-4407 • nycjericho@gmail.com

Oregon Jericho Movement: P.O. Box 17420, Portland, OR 97217 www.oregon-jericho.org • oregon.jericho@gmail.com

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Seattle Jericho: c/o Ed Mead, P.O. Box 47439, Seattle, WA 98146 info@seattlejericho.com • www.seattlejericho.com 206-271-5003

Update: Comrade sister Lala of the BRLP is the new National Youth Coordinator of the Jericho Amnesty Movement, committed to building campus and prison chapters of Jericho!

Canada: Violent Invasion of Anti-Racists' Home

Anti-Racist Action Network Statement

At approximately 1:30 AM on Monday, November 8, five masked individuals invaded the home of Bonnie and Jason Devine, long-time anti-racist campaigners in Alberta, Canada. The intruders were armed with bats and hammers, and overwhelmed Jason Devine and a friend who was visiting. Jason's friend was beaten over the head and had his arm broken, while Jason Devine was badly beaten by all five intruders, sustaining a concussion and also requiring stitches at the hospital where both the injured were brought. Nothing was stolen from the Devine family home during this incident, although the family car, laptop computer, and other property were damaged. Reports of a "home invasion robbery" are clearly unfounded. The Devines' four children were asleep at the time of the attack. The five attackers—believed to be neo-Nazis—fled in a dark SUV. This is the latest in a series of violent attacks by nazis in Western Canada and the US "Pacific Northwest," including the ambush shooting of SHARPskin Luke Querner in Portland OR, and arson of an ARA organizer's home in Vancouver BC after an anti-fa protest.

Preceding the attack on the Devine household, ARA Calgary had distributed flyers in an area where neo-Nazis affiliated with Blood & Honour/Aryan Guard currently live. (Note: the Aryan Guard seems to have merged into the Blood & Honour/Combat 18 neo-Nazi network, not to be confused with the rival Blood & Honour network linked to Volksfront International.) Jason and Bonnie Devine are the only members of Anti-Racist Action Calgary who have a public presence in their own names, and Jason Devine has been targeted by neo-Nazis four previous times, including a February 2008 firebomb attack against a previous residence.

Calgary police responded to this brutal attack by calling Children and Youth Services regarding the Devines' children, due to the violence suffered by Jason Devine. These children have since been allowed to return home. The attitude of the Calgary police is unfortunately all too common when anti-racists are targeted by white supremacists. We have repeatedly seen, as in this case, that when we defend ourselves against fascist attacks, the state is not neutral. It objectively sides with fascist forces and directs its repressive power against those who stand up for their human rights. We reject those, whether from the state, the corporate media, or even among so-called anti-racists, who try to equate Nazis and militant anti-fascists as 'extremists.' We call on all people of good will to denounce both the physical violence of the Nazi perpetrators of the home invasion attack, and the coercive violence of the state in trying to separate the Devines from their children. As is stated in the Anti-Racist Action Network's Points of Unity: "In this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other." It is now time to stand by the Devine family and our antifascist comrades in Calgary.

The ARA Network has set up a Paypal account to aid the Devine's with expenses in the aftermath of the nazi and state attacks. Donations can be sent via Paypal to: support [at] antiracistaction [dot] org. For those interested in reading about Anti-Racist Action Calgary, their website is http://ara-calgary.anarchistservices.ca/

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK
Four Points of Unity

1) WE GO WHERE THEY GO: Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US: This doesn't mean we never go to court, but the cops uphold white supremacy and the status quo, They attack us and everyone that resists oppression. We must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS: In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a free classless society.

WE INTEND TO WIN!

Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)
PO Box 1055*Culver City CA 90232*310-495-0299
antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com*www.antiracist.org

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK contact info:
www.antiracistaction.org
info@antiracistaction.org

NOTE: ARA's **Four Points of Unity** above were modified at the July conference and ratified on-line to include opposition to Islamophobia, transphobia, and systemic police abuse and repression.

TO THE AFRIKAN INTERCOMMUNALIST YOUTH- TO THEIR FATHERS- WE WILL NOW CRITICIZE THE UNJUST WITH THE WEAPON!

Statement from the Central Committee of the BRLP:

All Power to the People!

Revolutionary Greetings! *Due to the Black revolutionary consciousness that is surging around the country, the Black Riders Liberation Party has organized a powerful nationwide prison chapter. New recruits from all over the country are setting up branches for the prison chapter in the spirit of George Jackson and his brother/alter-ego Jonathan Jackson. Each branch is organized by state. We have received numerous requests from people on the streets around the country to set up chapters, especially on the East Coast. Also, the Northern California chapter of the Black Riders was officially opened during the struggle to seek justice for Oscar Grant with a Feed the People program amongst the rebellious masses in Oakland. We openly admit that the requirements to be a member of Black Riders requires strict discipline but we encourage others to take up the banner of freedom and bang on the system with a strong, structured revolutionary organization. There must be no other course but to fight it out. Every political and military position must be held to the last Black man and Black woman. There must be no retreat and no surrender. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause each one of us must fight on to the end. We call on all Black people who still believe in freedom to join us or support us with their minds, bodies, and souls. There is a great war to be won and we will win it together. The Black man and Black woman, once properly politically educated, culturally inspired, and physically trained is the greatest human fighting machine the world has ever known!*

RULES OF DISCIPLINE:

GUIDELINES OF DISCIPLINE FOR EVERY COMRADE IN THE BLACK RIDERS LIBERATION PARTY

Discipline is very necessary, if our objective is to be achieved. If revolutionary Afrikan Inter-communalists followed and adhered to strict self discipline, rules would not be necessary. So to safeguard and advance revolutionary Afrikan Inter-communalism, each comrade is responsible to him/her self and the global liberation front for maintaining and following the rules of discipline.

1) Each comrade is a potential leader and must at all times work toward obtaining those qualities that will make him/her the best and most efficient leader, learning when, where and how to take the initiative.

2) Each comrade must develop and maintain consistent study habits of the local/global political and socio-economic environment (any and all publications available: books, newspapers, and magazines that will help to give social consciousness), and all materials dealing with the science of struggle and the enemy.

3) Each comrade must be selfless; sharing and providing assistance to comrades with basic necessities and outside contacts if at all possible. Commendation and recognition is to be given for selfless acts. Taking undue advantage of comrades or black people must be disciplined.

4) Physical fitness is a must. Each comrade must maintain an exercise program. Group practice is desirable and if possible, should be systematic and punctual for cohesive effect.

5) Each comrade is to refrain from psychologically abusive and egotistical behavior; such as unnecessary loud talking, bragging and etc.

6) No comrade is to fear constructive criticism. Constructive criticism is a critical view or remark(s) backed by evaluation, knowledge, investigation, propriety, and concern.

7) Among comrades there shall be no egoism, vanity, intemperance, or intolerance. We understand that there are people with different religious views, but comrades who practice Afrikan Inter-communalism will always seek to persuade others to the correctness of the Black Riders Liberation Party.

8) Each comrade will diligently struggle to attain the goals, objectives, and general policies to their fullest capacities. They will always be mindful of the quality and quantity of their service, dedication and determination, and to always be willing to do what is required to bring an end to injustice, racism, police terrorism, black on black violent crime and global oppression.

9) Any comrade in violation of the rules must be disciplined according to the violation, and no punishment is to exceed the offense.

10) Each comrade must make an effort to teach non-members of the party suffering from lack of confidence and/or fear of the capitalist oppressor to over-come these obstacles. Educate to liberate is the motto for this purpose. To lead through the success of one's practice, leadership must be decisive; without sacrifice or participation in revolutionary activity, there is no leadership.

11) Every comrade with former "hood" or "tribal" connections should work day and night to be a positive revolutionary example to his or her homies. A comrade with street organizational ties should strive to educate their homies to the truth that it is real respect to be gained by riding on the real racist enemy instead of fighting other black people. If possible, this comrade should work on creating a cease fire between warring street formations involved in black on black violence. This comrade must be extremely politically educated and militant in order to facilitate improvised ways to accomplish this important job without backsliding into black on black violent crime and reactionary suicide.

12) Each cadre leader may establish additional rules in their environment to enhance the harmony in their area, keeping in mind the nature of human behavior, such as maintaining respect of female comrades, and the personal relationship between comrades. **All additional rules must be reported and approved by the Central Committee of the Black Riders Liberation Party.**

13) All information is disseminated on a need to know basis.

14) Under no condition will there be any fighting between comrades.

15) All comrades will show respect to all black people in word and actions.

16) All comrades should attempt to be polite and courteous to all people, regardless of race, creed, color or sexual orientation.

17) No comrade will place any material commodity above or before the Black Riders Liberation Party, the people, or the new black liberation movement.

18) No comrade will display or have an arrogant, disdainful, belittling or chauvinistic attitude.

19) No comrade is permitted to use, produce, distribute, process, fund, or take part in the sale of heroin, cocaine (in any form), LSD, or PCP. Nor will they take any type of pill for the purpose of getting high (uppers or downers) and no comrade will distribute such pills or take part in the sale of such pills or other illegal drugs.

20) No comrade will ever appear in public intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol, or any other illegal drug.

21) No comrade shall lie about his/her position/rank to the people or another comrade.

22) No comrade will reveal Black Rider secrets to anyone.

23) No comrade will use the influence or reputation of Black Riders for his/her personal interest.

24) All cadre leaders are to set up decolonization programs/or classes in political and physical education, first aid, karate (empty hand martial arts) weaponry, and other topics such as nutrition and horticulture, which will enable Black people to better survive, and to be able to contribute to the survival of the party.

25) All comrades are expected to take part in the established decolonization programs and classes.

26) All comrades will carry out orders given to them by their cadre leader or staff member .

27) All comrades are potential leaders and are expected to take the initiative and develop themselves to the utmost, so as to be capable of taking the initiative and providing leadership whenever it is needed.

28) All comrades will read the Black Riders Liberation Party's manual, and put to memory the rules of discipline, code of conduct, ways to combat liberalism, and points of attention as part of their everyday lives.

29) When a cadre leader is not available, comrades will vote and appoint one, on the merit of knowledge, experience, dedication, and courage. **All newly elected cadre leaders must report and be approved by the Central Committee of the Black Riders Liberation Party.**

30) All cadre leaders are to make available an avenue through which members can air grievances. There must exist a conscientious effort on the part of the cadre leader to resolve these grievances in a humane, patient, and sensitive manner.

31) Cadre leaders are to send dispositions of all grievances to the Central Committee for review.

32) All comrades who are imprisoned will report immediately upon release to a designated cadre leader or other instructed location.

33) No comrade can join any other group outside of the new Black Liberation Army.

34) Always remember that bulletproof Black on Black love and unity is our number one goal to create revolution in fascist AmeriKKKa!

"Settle your quarrels, come together, understand the reality of our situation, understand that fascism is already here, that people are already dying who could be saved, that generations more will die or live poor butchered half-lives if you fail to act. Do what must be done, discover your humanity and your love in revolution. Pass on the torch. Join us, give up your life for the people."

-The Great General George Jackson

BLACK RIDE OR DIE!
BLACK POWER TO BLACK PEOPLE!
ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

JOIN NOW!
FREE THE LA 2!

Black Riders Liberation Party
PO Box 8297
Los Angeles, CA 90008
BLACKRIDERSLP@YAHOO.COM
323.245.5320

Rumors October-December 2010

Street stories of recent anti-racist & anti-fascist action (the verb if not the groups) in the US & Canada

DISCLAIMER

The name of this blotter is to be taken literally. Submissions were received via internet from anonymous antifascists, who may or may not have been speaking about themselves, or from released communiqués and report-backs. This is just to demonstrate some of the realities of everyday anti-fascism, and is **not to be taken as encouragement or endorsement.**

Oakland, CA: Reaction to the Nov. 5 sentencing of murdering cop Joseph Mehserle for his execution of Oscar Grant was massive and militant. After the BART cop was given only 2 years minus time served, leaving him to be released in as few as a few months, the streets of Oakland filled with angry people who were met with intense police repression and 100s of arrests in attempt to disperse them.

West Coast, US: Austrian Far-Right Fascist Band Allerseelen (for more info on them visit RoseCityAntifa.weebly.com) encountered Antifa resistance to their December west coast tour. Their date in Portland was cancelled after antifascists told the space of the band's ties and views. At the time of this writing, their LA show had already had to move venues once, and the people booking Allerseelen have been receiving tons of complaints.

Chicago, IL: Chicago's ultra-right Tea Party released a statement related to a recent alleged arson at their Christmas party on 12/10. According to the tea-baggers, someone sneaked into the bathroom of the bar where the party was and left 4 burning road flares taped together in the trash can, filling the bar with smoke and forcing everyone to evacuate. Written on the toilet seat in red was "FUCK THE CHICAGO TEA PARTY."

Clackamas County, OR: December 11 is known in Nazi/WP circles as "martyrs' day." Their "martyrs" are members of the infamous "Order," who committed a string of murders and robberies in an attempt to start a "white revolution" in the 1980's. Anti-fa in OR 'celebrated' this year by distributing hundreds of "WANTED" posters, outing several key members of Volksfront.

Portland, OR: Rose City Antifa used "martyrs' day" as an excuse to release over a hundred gathered intelligence photos of Volksfront and other Nazis in the Portland area on Portland Indymedia. RCA is asking for more information on those pictured, and the pictures/original release can be found at Portland.inymedia.org. Here's to an increase in their martyrs.

Chicago, IL: Pro-choice militants threw chunks of asphalt through the dining room window of anti-choice patriarch Joe Scheidler of the so-called "Pro-Life Action League." Accompanying the asphalt chunks was a note signed by some "crazy feminist bitches." 'Nuff Said.

Chicago, IL: The racist, xenophobic propaganda film "The Minutemen" (dealing with the anti-immigrant vigilante border patrol group of the same name) was being screened at the Chicago international film festival in early October and was met with antifascist resistance. The first screening had protesters out front, and several antifascists confronted Minuteman leader Robert Crooks, pelting him with eggs as he tried to leave the film festival. The next day, several antifascists obtained tickets to the screening and disrupted Crooks by calling him out as a racist. Finally, the film's producer Nick Weissman was smashed with a dog-shit pie as he attempted to give a press interview, putting a final emphasis on what happens when you bring murderous racists and propaganda to our cities.

Des Moines, IA: Over 60 antifascists gathered in front of the Iowa state capitol in anticipation of an announced "White Pride Day" in mid-November. Several white nationalists were seen driving around the perimeter of the area, but all of them were too scared of the mob of anti-fas to park. With superior numbers and physical attractiveness, the anti-fa succeeded in shutting down the rally before it even began.

Phoenix, AZ: A march by the Neo-Nazi National Socialist Movement (NSM) through Phoenix in mid-November was met with stiff resistance. Rocks were thrown at the Nazis and the cops defending them, and the route was blocked by a group of antifa who were met with tear gas and a few arrests. March organizer J.T. Ready was briefly confronted by anti-fa before being rescued by an undercover cop.

Philadelphia, PA: Antifascists turned out on October 10 for Keystone State Skinheads' (KSS) annual Leif Ericson day celebration. Recent months have seen a marked reduction in activity by KSS, once one of the most active and public white power groups. On the day of, not a single nazi showed up, leaving antifa to pose for pictures on the statue of Ericson. This seems to be the end of KSS, not a moment too soon. KSS co-founder Steve Smith organized a small Leif Ericson event weeks later. It was held by American 3rd Position Party, a racist political party that has been recruiting from the ashes of KSS, probably to save face after gloating antifa made public the sudden demise of Leif Ericson Day.

New York, NY: Members of the ultra-nationalist anti-communist band Venganza Tatuada and their crew Battalion 49 attacked a group of antifascists in mid-October. The antifa had shown up near their show to confirm reports from that venue that they had cancelled the show. After they encountered the more numerous fascists, the antifa identified themselves as the very ones who had gotten their first venue to cancel the show and phone jammed the second venue all day. Several members of B49 and VT pulled out knives and rocks and attacked the antifa, who scattered though a few of them had some minor injuries. Their overreaction may be related to a member of VT having his nose broken after starting a fight with an antifascist a few weeks earlier.

Tomball, TX: This September Tomball became the target of several racist anti-immigrant groups and neo-nazis for the city council's rejection of proposed anti-immigrant ordinances. Pickets were organized by scumbags from the Minutemen, Border Watch, and Tea Party supporters, and attended by racist bikers and neo-nazis. Texas antifascists came out in force to oppose them, and one antifa was attacked by a nazi with a camera tripod. The antifa defended themselves, which prompted the nazi to run to the police and show video taken only after the attack had begun, leading to the antifascist's arrest.

Columbus, OH: Columbus is a city with a long history of radical antifascism, and did not disappoint this September when Columbus ARA received a tip that some local boneheads would be meeting at a Lowe's parking lot to distribute literature around the city. 20 ARA and antifa approached the Nazis in the parking lot and told them to fuck off. The Nazis complied, leaving and attempting to regroup nearby, where they were again set upon by ARA. At this point the police arrived and the groups were separated. Antifa then had to deal with a few hours of police harassment, but the Nazis didn't distribute a flyer.

North Brunswick, NJ: Hub City ARA and other queers/allies gathered to protest a planned picket by Westboro "God Hates Fags" Baptist Church at a high school for a production of "The Laramie Project." WBC a no-show.

Clifton, NJ: Neo-Nazi band "Call the Paramedics" was dropped from NJ Death Fest, culminating a rash of cancellations of virtually all their shows since their nazi ties/affiliations were brought to light by antifascists. Word on the street is that antifa who had played with some other bands on the bill got to talking to those bands, and that was all it took.

Pittsburgh, PA: David Japenga was sentenced to 6 to 18 months after being convicted of property destruction during the G-20 protests in Pittsburgh in 2009. On the night of his conviction in November, police report a group of protesters marching in downtown Oakland (the neighborhood in Pittsburgh David was arrested in) and thousands of dollars of damage to the windows of a bank and upscale eatery. Japenga has since been released early after serving a few more weeks on top of his already over 4 months served.

Berkeley, CA & Muncie, IN: Pittsburgh is not the only city to see attacks on banks. Recently there have been statements released relating to vandalisms of the 1st Source Bank of Indiana and a Wells Fargo in Berkeley.

Tacoma, WA: An anonymous person or persons released a statement claiming responsibility for a Dec. 14 smashing of all the windows of a police substation there. The person or group attributed the attack to the oppression or prisons and the regular murders committed by police.

Montreal, QC: An anonymous statement was released claiming responsibility for a December vandalism of a dozen vehicles belonging to the Bell building in the city. The statement claimed that Bell refused to publicly release footage their security camera captured of a police shooting out front of a Muslim man on his way home from mosque and that this was retribution.

Montreal, QC: A statement was released in mid-Nov. claiming responsibility for window smashing and paint defacement of the Russian embassy in Montreal. The communiqué named repression of antifascists and environmentalists by the Russian government, related to the anti-fas' attempt to protect a forest in Khimiki.

Portland, OR: A smoke bomb was set off in a cop bar in Portland early December 6, and a short statement was released by anonymous anarchists in solidarity with several victims of state repression/murder.

Modesto, CA: Dec. 6, a group of 15 protesters marched into a Modesto police station during a public meeting, chanting "Cops! Pigs! Murderers!" They wore masks bearing the faces of two people killed by Modesto police in September. The anarchists disrupted the meeting shortly but avoided any arrests.

Seattle, WA: Also on Dec. 6, a banner was dropped from an overpass in Seattle reading "Police violence is no accident. Cops are killers." A short statement announcing the banner drop attributed it to the anniversary of Greek police murdering a young teen and the uprising that followed.

Asheville, NC: A statement was released claiming responsibility for an attack on 6 Department of Corrections cars in late Nov. and attributing it to police repression of anarchists and radicals.

Asheville, NC: About 50 anarchists marched and rallied in support of the "Asheville 11," who were arrested this past May Day for alleged property destruction at a march. The group marched from a nearby park to the county jail, chanting with several banners, including one reading, "Police are the absolute enemy."

Portland, OR: An anonymous statement was released claiming responsibility for the vandalism of 5 unmarked police cars. The cars had their tires slashed and were doused in paint thinner. The statement also espoused anti-state, anti-police and anti-racist ideas.

To contribute items to this blotter, email
info@antiracistaction.org

Love Park 4 No More!

"Cops wanna knock me, D.A. wanna box me in
But somehow, I beat them charges like Rocky" --Jay-Z

It's been a long time since we sent out any news on our case; almost a year by our calculations because until now, there was nothing new to report. After last February´s frustratingly comedic court date we heard nothing about the plea deal we'd been offered. Checking our court dockets, it seemed the case had been forgotten about. Then in late November the DA's office awoke from their slumber and scheduled a court date so we could accept the plea offer; and end this case once and for all. On Dec. 9, we returned to court again. We agreed to the plea; all 8 misdemeanor charges were reduced to a single summary offense of disorderly conduct (the equivalent of a traffic summons). Making the deal even better, there would be no further punishment, fine or probation. The judge made sure we understood what we were agreeing to, and told us all to have a nice day. 3-1/2 years of court proceedings resolved in under 90 seconds. Anti-climactic? Yes, but a huge relief. The last thing left was to get our bail money back. We should have known better. At the bail refund window, we were told to return in 20 days with our bail receipts and ID. Then it'll be another 2-3 weeks until they cut checks and mail them to us. As $500 of this bail money was community raised, we want to let people know we will be using some to pay our court fees. The remainder will be donated to comrades in Phoenix who were arrested trying to stop the National Socialist Movement from marching in their city. For more information on that legal case, see Phoenix Class War Council's reportback: Riot, Si Se Puede! **http://firesneverextinguished.blogspot.com/2010/12/riot-si-se-puede.html**

Last but not least, we want to thank everyone that has stood by us. We wouldn't have been able to do this without you.

Anti-Fascist Hackers Destroy Dozens of Neo-Nazi Web Sites, Publish Private Emails and Databases

Hackers in November destroyed over a dozen white supremacist websites, releasing private information on a variety of nazi, KKK, and other racist organizations. Private email correspondence, online forum and store databases, and thousands of home addresses and phone numbers belonging to known fascists leaders were posted on the defaced websites along with anarchist propaganda. The hackers targetted a variety of different fascist groups, including Blood & Honour, Combat 18, the Creativity Movement, Vinlanders Social Club, Aryan Front, White Power Skinheads, the Empire Knights of the KKK, the National Socialist Movement, ISD Records, and more.

The released private email correspondence revealed a number of embarrassing and often disturbing stories about top neo-nazi leaders in the US and is expected to cause infighting and disunion in the white supremacist scene. Some of the profiled nazis were involved in the military, have been to prison for hate crimes, have raped or molested people, or are just plain racist losers - making one wonder why such a supposed "master race" attracts some sick and disturbed people to their movement. At least two active duty law enforcement officers were identified as nazis.

The release of personal identifying information (including full names, addresses, phone numbers, passwords, and private pictures) gives anti-fascist researchers and activists a treasure trove of intel to work with, and is also sure to make the boneheads sleep a little less easy at night.

The anonymous activists declared: "We did this in solidarity with our comrades who have been attacked by organized fascists in the past year." The attacks included the November 8 attack at Jason and Bonnie Devine's home in Calgary, the March 27th shooting of SHARP Luke Querner in Portland OR, the April 6 bombing of an anti-fascist house in Vancouver, and the murder of Russia RASH founder Ivan Khutorskoy just over one year ago. The hackers further said: "These incidents …demonstrate that the fascist threat can't be ignored, and we need to take any and all forms of action to drive them off the street and off the internet." The statement continued: "Confronting fringe nazi boneheads is just one front in the larger struggle against the institutional racism which attacks colonized people in relation to land and labor. We are also fighting anti-immigrant 'papers please' laws like SB1070, racist pigs in the police force like Joe Arpaio, John Burge and Johannes Mehserle, and the prison industrial complex which disproportionately targets people of color and the impoverished."

Book Review:

Defying the Tomb by Kevin "Rashid" Johnson

Reviewed by Ed Mead

It is not often that I write a book review. I'm a bit ashamed to admit that I read very few books. The last review I wrote was for Mumia Abu-Jamal's *Jailhouse Lawyers: Prisoners Defending Prisoners v. the U.S.A.,* which I read because I'm a former jailhouse lawyer, and also because it contained a chapter by me (it's also an excellent book). I've recently read two other books, *Guerilla USA,* and *Creating a Movement with Teeth*, both by Daniel Burton Rose. I read these because they were about the George Jackson Brigade, of which I was a part. It isn't that I only read books that have something about me in them. It is, rather, that as a revolutionary I see little on the political horizon containing much of what I would call real political substance or content. I tell my friends that I am "looking for [the] jesus" of political writings, I am looking for a revolutionary—a writer that strikes a chord within my understanding of dialectical and historical materialism as applied to the conditions and circumstances existing in the world today.

I have found such a book. It is ***Defying the Tomb*** by Kevin "Rashid" Johnson.[1] If you fancy yourself a progressive revolutionary and also feel you are too smart to be a part of one of those dead-end ABCDEF groups, then this just may be the book for you. I wrote a small back cover blurb for *Defying* that said something to the effect of this: "Your mission (should you choose to accept it) is to buy and many copies of this book as you can, read it, and then get those copies into the hands of as many prisoners as possible." This is good advice and something I am passing along here as well.

With a forward by Russell "Maroon" Shoats, an introduction by Tom Big Warrior, and an Afterword by Sundiata Acoli, I figured this was going to be a good read. It was. Mr. Shoats ends his forward by referring to Rashid and his comrades as young lions, he says: "…it's up to all of you to recognize how much we need him, and all of these *unmentioned* younger soldiers; comrades like him can raise us up. Put as much protection around him as you can. Our future depends on it!" This is true. Rashid must be defended against the machinations of the state or he will suffer the fate of Fred Hampton, George Jackson, and countless other murdered revolutionaries here and around the globe.

Like Comrade George before him, Rashid takes the reader to a level of political thought not fully contemplated before, but yet one we already know so well. Also like George, Rashid grew up on the streets and with a street mentality—a mentality than landed him in prison at a young age. We next go through a section of the book with Rashid and watch the process of his in prison political maturation. Before long we are treated to the content of the letters exchanged between Rashid and a fellow convict called Outlaw, where we see those now mature politics address a practice that verifies theory. Weaved throughout the whole book are discussions of subjects such as the application of dialectical and historical materialism to global, national, and local conditions, as well as a good discussion on the question of democratic centralism (don't screw up your nose, read what he has to say).

When I was a part of Men Against Sexism[2] (MAS) in the Washington State Penitentiary at Walla Walla back in the 1970s, it became necessary to align with a group of social prisoners who were then running the Lifers Club. In making this union I insisted that we be organized on the basis of democratic centralism (DC). When one of our MAS members subsequently violated the group's security a decision was made to beat the offender with clubs fabricated from broomsticks. I argued against this assault but after the discussion ended I was out-voted and because of DC was I forced to participate in the beating of a comrade.[3] Ever since that time I have not been a proponent of DC. Not until now. Rashid's examines the past abuses of DC and points out how its true intent has been replaced by some form of authoritative commandism.

Rashid correctly notes that none of Lenin's contemporaries in the global Social Democratic movements criticized DC, not even Rosa Luxemburg, who strongly opposed features of "Leninist" organizations. He concludes by saying, "… corruption and abuses of power are essentially impossible when dc is observed, since all Party members, leaders especially, are subject to criticism, exposure and recall through open democratic processes. Leaders are *elected* to their positions based upon *demonstrated* qualifications and integrity, and are subject to having their powers *revoked* for *failure* to live up to their responsibilities, also by majority vote." (Emphasis in original.)

The comparisons of Rashid to Comrade George cannot be understated. To my way of thinking *Defying the Tomb* is a more mature and well-reasoned *Blood In My Eye*—Rashid builds upon and advances George's political thinking. The book concludes with a series of documents written by Rashid on subjects such as "On the Roles and Characteristics of the Panther Vanguard Party and Mass Organizations" and "What's Left of the Left." As well as other commentaries on subjects such as the Black entertainment and the media, and various commentaries on today's America. Rashid's knowledge and research are impressive and his writing style is one that's easy to follow.

Rather than go further into the content of the book, I will merely urge you to buy and read it for yourself. For my part, I have ordered ten copies and will work to use Rashid's book as the focus of a Seattle-based study group. That is as high a praise as I can possibly give for any book. Read this one now. Then start a study group of your own; one focus of which can be sending copies of *Defying* in to rights and class conscious prisoners.

1 Available at AK Press (http://www.akpress.org/) and Left Wing Books (https://secure.leftwingbooks.net/).

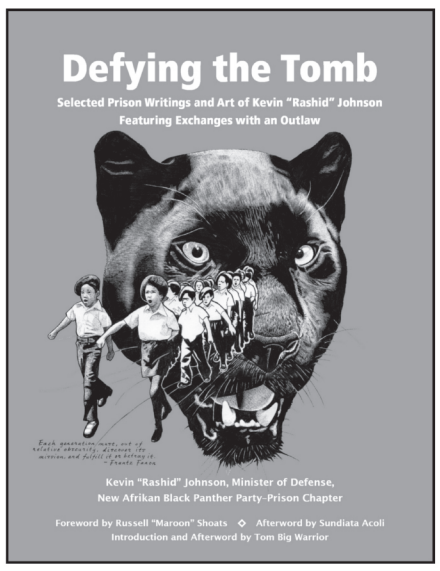
2 An organized group of gay and anti-sexist prisoners that fought homophobia and prisoner-on-prisoner rape, using tools such as a newsletter, films, and six home-made shotguns.

3 Half way through the beating I threw my stick down in disgust. Another prisoner picked it up and continued hitting the offender, who ended up with both arms broken.

Defying the Tomb

Selected Prison Writings and Art of Kevin "Rashid" Johnson, New Afrikan Black Panther Party Minister of Defense, Featuring Exchanges With an Outlaw

"Kevin 'Rashid' Johnson has put together an outstanding compendium of political essays and letters that addresses many of the critical issues of today. His intra-prison correspondences with his comrade, Outlaw, is a rewarding study in the determined and ingenious maneuvers that prisoners have to go through to politically educate and organize themselves – and others around them. As a result, just reading the book itself provides one with the basic foundation of a political education." Sundiata Acoli



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Calendar of Up-Coming Anti-Racist Actions

Tuesday, January 4, 2-6:00 PM

Protest impunity in the police killing of Oscar Grant III, demand feds indict Mehserle and other cops, US Justice Dept., 312 N. Spring St., L.A.

Monday, January 17 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Martin Luther King **Coalition for Jobs, Justice and Peace** - contingent in L.A. parade, MLK Blvd & Western, 10:00 AM
(Follow up meeting of on-going MLK Coalition for Jobs Justice & Peace Sat., Jan. 22, Holman UM Church, W. Adams; kwazinkrumah@aol.com)

6:00 PM 1/17 Confront Attorney General Holder: Lock up Killer Cops, Not Migrant Workers! Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Century Blvd. near LAX

February-March, TBA

Los Angeles showings of the new documentary film ***COINTELPRO 101*** at the Pan-African Film Festival on Feb. 17 at 2:15 PM and Feb. 19 at 1:45 pm, also at the REDCAT Theater downtown, other venues. Exact dates, times and venues to be announced, but don't miss this searing documentary. For more info, call 310-495-0299 or check www.freedomarchives.org

Last weekend in March, LA Trade Technical College

Grassroots Community Conference and Teach-In on Housing, Homelessness, Foreclosures, Gentrification, the Privatization of Public Housing, Food and Water Sovereignty and Environmental Justice
for more information, check back with www.grassrootskpfk.org or email grassrootskpfk@gmail.com

April, 2010 Peoples' Tribunal on Human Rights

A distinguished panel will hear testimony indicting the government and named individuals in the political and corporate elite and criminal injustice system for human rights violations in the treatment of political prisoners in the U.S. For particulars: jerichoamnestylosangeles@gmail.com
This may take place in conjunction with a planned Community Conference on People's Justice, addressing issues of police abuse and murder, the prison-industrial complex/mass incarceration, criminalization of youth, the death penalty and political prisoners. For more info call 310-495-0299.

PART's PERSPECTIVE:

The Missing Ingredients

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror*** **(ARA-LA/PART)**

What is the recipe for a revolutionary transformation of this society?

The need for such a process should be as evident as the nose on our faces. The evidence is in the melting glaciers in the Himalayas and the vanishing polar ice cap in Greenland, where the indigenous tell us that the water is now running out from under the ice even in winter. The evidence, as Derrick Jensen eloquently tells us, is in the disappearance of the salmon (not to mention the frogs, the bees, and the fish in the sea). The evidence is in the city of rat-infested cargo containers piling up outside the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, because of every six containers of imports that come into that busiest port complex in the U.S., only one goes back out with exports. Not to mention that much of what the US physically exports these days is cardboard, scrap metal, toxic electronic waste for "recycling," and old clothes.

The evidence is in the pervasive pan-opticon of surveillance, counter-intelligence, and domestic espionage that scans every email, biometrically identifies every face, and sanitizes the results of every search on the Internet. The evidence is in the robot soldiers being developed by DARPA. It's in the drones that practically fly themselves along the US-Mexico border as well as the 'tribal' regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and it's in the coffins that keep coming out of those regions, as well as Iraq, where President Obama has declared the war is over.

The evidence is in the schools of every city in the country, where enrollments are rising and teaching and support staff are dropping. One of the "anomalies" of the recent economic contraction and jobless "recovery" is that it is the first one in which the loss of employment opportunities in other fields hasn't meant an increase in people opting to be teachers. Recent figures show a 50% drop in first and second year teachers, the result of massive layoffs and 'reductions in force' at many school districts. LA Unified may pretend to be worried about "drop-outs," but the teacher shortage would be insurmountable even with the planned class size increases, if 50% or more of Black and Mexicano/indigenous high school students were not being tracked into the prisons or the grave before they finish school.

The evidence is in the mortality and morbidity statistics for the US, where life expectancy is falling, and the country with the highest total and per capita spending on "health care" has the worst health in the industrialized world. The evidence is in the coming "double-dip" in the housing market, with a new round of foreclosures imminent. The evidence is incarcerated by the millions in the US gulag of jails, prisons and juvenile halls, augmented by those on parole or probation, those underemployed or disenfranchised because of their prior convictions. The evidence is in unemployment so persistent during the supposed recovery that the government has been forced to change its statistical measures to allow for people 'unemployed' for up to 5 years.

But if the evidence is so clear, why is the population so docile? Why is the only sign of animus or agitation apparently on the mostly white Right, in the Tea Party, the neo-Confederates, and those who have moved beyond 'respectable' white nationalism to neo-fascist and neo-nazi formations? What happened, in the US, to the in-the-streets anti-war movement, or the anti-globalization movement before it? Like Oswald the Rabbit, Disney's first creation now lurking in Wasteland in a new video-game featuring "Epic Mickey" Mouse, is there a shadowy place where outrage and resistance have gone to lick their wounds?

Actually, the name of the place where throttled and neutered social movements go is widely known. It's the corporate Democratic Party, where the corpse of environmentalism can dance with the ghost of feminism. There a toothless labor "movement," like a zombie reanimated by a new generation of "Communists," can consort with a gay "liberation" movement that fights for the right to enter into the marriage contract and to serve in the imperial armed forces. There, the children of those who, in return for the perks of government office, sold out the dream of equality and freedom of the civil rights movement can encounter the children of migrant workers, whose DREAM of a path to citizenship through assimilation and loyalty to the Empire (at the university or the military) died stillborn. US Out of Iraq, have you met SANE/Freeze? Clean for Gene, I'd like you to meet Change We Can Believe In.

But we cannot blame the Democratic Party for failing to deliver on its campaign promises or our illusions, anymore than you can blame a scorpion for biting you when you give it a ride across the river. The fault is not in our stars, but in ourselves. What are we missing and how can we reclaim it?

The yeast that is lacking in the loaves that keep coming out of the oven flat is three-fold: caring, clarity and audacity.

Caring, because too many of us are like walking wounded, punch drunk from losses.

The fighters on our side of the domestic war that the US waged in the 1960s and 70s through mechanisms like COINTELPRO ended up dead, imprisoned, isolated or with a kind of PTSD – post traumatic stress disorder. And so they and we are suffering, and mostly, suffering in silence. We lick our wounds privately, not recognizing or applying our collective capacity to heal and nurture each other. As Che said, as Malcolm demonstrated, "A true revolutionary is guided by great feelings of love." We need to love ourselves, love the land, love each other and to act out of love to heal the wounds, mend the biosphere, and to make the connections of mutual aid and solidarity that can overcome, while acknowledging, our vulnerabilities and weaknesses.

Clarity, because blinded by identification with or as the oppressor, we refuse to see the true nature of the system we live within and are part of, and of the enemy we confront.

The US is and always has been a settler colonial empire, the bastion of reaction domestically and internationally. Behind every one of the problems we confront – hunger, homelessness, police abuse, mis-education, rape, catastrophic climate change, poverty, ill health – stands an implacable enemy whose lifeblood is the profits that flow out of each of those problems. Unemployment, war, militarism, and environmental devastation are not policies that can be changed or ameliorated through enlightenment or education. They are part and parcel of a system of colonialism and capitalism that must be uprooted and replaced. Any effective action we take or change we make will be met with repression, so it must be central to our movements to build the capacity to resist and fight back in the face of repression. And bear in mind that cooptation is a form of repression, the carrot that dangles from the stick. The system has centuries of practice of substituting bourgeois "liberation" movements for revolutionary ones. Based on class collaboration and identification with the Empire and the oppressor, it can stock the ranks of bourgeois women's movements, or replace conscious hip-hop with materialistic gangsta-glorifying rap. It's always ready offer a New Deal or just a big deal, the best deal we can get. It's time to say, no deal.

Audacity, because despite all its might and wealth, the Empire has feet of clay – not only an irreconcilable contradiction with its subjects, the people it exploits and oppresses, but an irremediable contradiction within itself.

A system based on stolen land and labor, whose operations destroy the land, the sea and sky, whose growth is inevitably consumed by collapse like the seven fat cows eaten by the seven lean cows in the Pharoah's dream, cannot endure. The Empire is aware that all its wealth and power come from the people it exploits and oppresses, and whom it cannot do without. The Market knows full well that all of capitalism is a colossal Ponzi scheme, and fears the scales falling from our eyes, the awakening awareness that Property is theft, and that we and the planet are the source of creativity and wealth. They know that they need us but we do not need them.

The growing rigidity and repressiveness of their system is a measure of their fear. Their need to colonize every inch of bandwidth, to colonize the human genome and the germinal power of every seed is a measure of both their insatiable greed and their inevitable vulnerability. It is we the people who must realize our power, who must renew our understanding that, as Huey P. Newton said, the people's spirit is greater than the man's technology. We need the audacity to struggle relentlessly by every means necessary, to "use what we got to get what we need."

Key to this is recognizing that, though a new world is possible, it is not a new U.S. that is necessary. The imperial structure of the US, a prison house of colonized nations and peoples, must be shed as a caterpillar sheds its chrysalis to emerge as a butterfly. Inside the belly of the beast, those irreconcilable contradictions that have been muted by privileges and bribes are inevitably re-asserting themselves.

Remember that privilege is also a method of social control, along with punishment. Privilege exists within every stratum and sector of society, not only in the form of white skin privilege or male privilege. Privilegs are bestowed and taken away within prison to control and divide prisoners. Privileges were extended even to certain slaves. Privileges are a key mechanism of dividing the working class and colonized people against ourselves and our own interests in emancipation, liberation, and reconstruction. Never accept as a privilege what should be yours as a human right. Time to break the chains that bind us to our own oppressors and our own destruction, and take flight!

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Please Note:

TTT is a small project with few resources: **we can't provide books or legal aid, or investigate individuals' innocence**.

Note to our Readers:

This is the first edition of a new, enhanced, on-line version of "Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education."

Because of financial constraints due to printing and mailing costs, the print edition of Turning the Tide is only 8 pages, usually crammed with content and often using small font sizes and very limited graphical content. We apologize for this necessity.

However, those constraints are not applicable to the on-line version and so, beginning with this issue, Volume 24 Number 1, as we enter our 24th year of publication, we are adding pages, content, and graphics to the on-line version of "Turning the Tide." The articles on the Greek, Puerto Rican and Georgia prisoners' strikes are all longer here than in the print edition, as is the PART's Perspective editorial on "The Missing Ingredients." We have also updated some of the calendar items, added to the total number of pages and changed the point size, layout and graphical content, as well as the order, of many of the other pieces.

We expect to continue this process in coming issues, but will try to get the expanded, on-line PDF version of "Turning the Tide" up in a more timely manner in the future.

On another note we will shortly be expanding the website to include prisoner writings and contact information that we cannot include in the print edition of TTT.

We welcome reader input and feedback and are attempting to develop a blog feature on the website or via another mechanism where comments can be posted. Thanks for your continued support and interest!

--the Editor.

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Peoples Justice Conference

May 14-15, Los Angeles CA
Los Angeles Trade-Tech College
Washington Blvd. & Grand Ave., L.A.

The conference will link together those dealing with and struggling against police terror, mass incarceration and the prison-industrial complex, political repression and imprisonment, and the death penalty. The venue was not yet determined as Turning the Tide went to press with this issue.

Initiated by GrassrootsKPFK, a coalition of human rights activists who recently ran candidates for the local station board of Pacifica's KPFK-FM, the conference planning process has grown to include the LA Coalition for Justice for Oscar Grant, the Coalition for Community Control Over the Police, the LA chapter of the Jericho Amnesty Movement to free political prisoners, the Justice Working Group of the Martin Luther King Coalition for Jobs Justice and Peace, the Brown Riders and Black Riders Liberation Party, Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART), the Puerto Rican Alliance, the Workers Solidarity Alliance, the Free Association of Anarchists, and other grassroots groups.

The conference is designed to address the needs and concerns of the people impacted by the colonial, capitalist "criminal justice" system, and to unite forces to take a strategic popular offensive around these issues of oppression. Know Your Rights, educational and skills sharing workshops will take place, as well as a People's Tribunal on Human Right Violations against political prisoners, coordinated by the Jericho Amnesty Movement, cultural events, self-defense workshops, copwatch training, etc. The conference will also address issues such as the reintegration into socially useful employment of formerly incarcerated people, prisoner rights, including the right to release for three-strikers and old-time indeterminate sentence lifers, and efforts around prison and death penalty abolition.

The planning committee for this conference is meeting at the Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research, 6120 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90044, on Saturdays at noon. You can check out information and updates about the conference at www.blogspot.com/peoplesjusticeconference or sign up for the email list peoplesjusticeconference@ googlegroups.com. For more information, contact peoplesjusticeconference@gmail.com or call 310-495-0299.

The conference is not sponsored by or afiliated with Los Angeles Trade Technical College or the Los Angeles Community College District.

Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

TURNING THE TIDE

Free Bradley Manning! Defend G.I. Resisters!
End Imperial Wars in Libya, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan, Mexico, Colombia...and at home!

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PART's Perspective:
Until the philosophy which holds one race superior and another inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned,
Everywhere Is War! -- Haile Selassie, Ethiopia

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action L.A./People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA /PART)***

Callously, on the anniversary of the US re-invasion of Iraq, the Obama administration orchestrated an invasion of Libya by French, British and US forces, using missiles, fighter planes, rockets and bombers under the guise of UN authorization for a "humanitarian" no-fly zone. Already fighting two land wars in Asia in Iraq and Afghanistan, already sending troops to Colombia and flying drones over Mexico, the US has now extended it endless war to Africa.

The hypocrisy of the attack on Libya was blatant, since the US did nothing to prevent government attacks on protesters in Ivory Coast, Yemen, or Bahrain (where US ally Saudi Arabia actually sent in troops to suppress opposition to the dictatorial monarchy). Even the controlled US media had to acknowledge that the US had carefully stage-managed the Arab League and UN calls for action. Many recognize that Libya's oil was a key factor, especially in the European response. Less obvious was the threat posed to the US by previously expressed intentions of the Gulf oil monarchies to abandon the dollar as the currency for pricing oil. Having cracked the whip and flexed its muscle, the US is now in a position to forestall any such move. It would have shattered the fragile US economic stabilization (impossible to call it a "recovery" given the massive on-going unemployment, deep slashes of social services, education and public employment, and the double-dip depression in the housing market).

The US seized the opportunity provided by the democratic upsurge in North Africa and the Gulf region to reassert its domination, whether through covert operations, puppet regimes or open military intervention. By orchestrating a Euro-American attack on the most African-identified Arab regime, the US also served notice that a new era of re-colonization was underway in Africa and that the West would be resisting China's inroads there.

Meanwhile Obama himself was carefully off-stage, washing his hands of responsibility like Pontius Pilate and touring "Latin" America to proclaim its strategic importance to the US economy. He went to fend off the threat of Chinese and Japanese investment and the rise of ALBA, the Venezuelan-led development bank. Yet neither his hosts nor the other nations in South and Meso America could fail to see the military threat behind the velvet words.

The response within the US to this latest imperial escalation and aggression has been anemic. Dennis Kucinich and Ralph Nader raised the issue of impeachment of Obama for failing to even consult Congressional leaders, let alone abide by Constitutional and legislative constraints on such armed action. But street actions have been ritualistic. US labor unrest in Wisconsin and elsewhere, hyped by some as the insurgent equivalent of uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere, have not drawn the obvious connection to opposing imperial war, and barely begun to make links with the immigrants battling other repressive measures by the same legislators. Insurrection, let alone revolution, is far off.

The massive labor-student-community rallies in Madison and growing organizing in Ohio, Indiana and elsewhere are certainly welcome. But it is troubling that these mostly-white rallies, defending the rights of a mostly white sector of labor, somehow galvanized laudatory left and union comment and solidarity in a way that the student-community-labor actions in Puerto Rico (facing the same type of attacks on public services, employees and unions) or the general strike of prison labor in Georgia did not. Yet they, like Tunisia, surely inspired mass action in WI.

The shredding of collective bargaining rights, the slashing of education funding, social services and public employment in the midst of a prolonged and deep economic crisis, and the general program of austerity embraced by Republicans and Democrats alike, are undeniable manifestations within the US of the global state of war manifest more fully and bloodily in Libya. But the fight back against them must be conscious of that larger and bloodier war going on, including other aspects of the "war at home" of police terror, mass incarceration and political imprisonment and repression.

Labor must show conscious solidarity with Black community partisans resisting police abuse and racial profiling, with prisoners defying the new slave plantations, with migrants demanding their human rights, and with colonized people resisting the bombs, drones and missiles of the Empire. Otherwise, such bread-and-butter oriented labor rallies amount to little more than a militant defense of privilege. It's applying a bandage to a sore while ignoring a deadly systemic infection.

Elsewhere in this issue are reports on two Los Angeles efforts to develop anti-imperialist, anti-colonial and anti-capitalist organizing around the concrete conditions of housing exploitation, lack of food and water sovereignty, police terror, and the imprisonment or custodial control of over 8 million people, mostly of color.

Such grassroots base-building around immediate issues that exposes the true nature of this entire rotten system and begins to exert the power of the oppressed is a necessary component of seizing the time of the ongoing and deepening crisis of the Empire to marshal the popular forces capable of overturning and replacing it.

Feedback welcome: antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

On Confrontational Politics:
Erase the Fear of Aboveground Self-Defense

by General T.A.C.O., ***Black Riders Liberation Party***

Confrontational Politics is a brand new name for an upgraded style of militant, forceful, head-on tactics; designed to challenge the racist oppressor. It incorporates armed and unarmed aggressive self-defense in an aboveground blend of using disciplined Black formations. Its genesis and early beginning has roots that stretch way back to Marcus Garvey's United Negro Improvement Association's self defense wing called the *Black Legion* and Malcolm X's late 1950s *Fruit of Islam*.

Marcus Garvey was a great black leader who understood the necessity to present to the Black masses a disciplined above ground militant unit that would represent an uncompromising stance in the face of violent white racist retaliation triggered by any black organization seeking freedom. He was the premier leader who first put the critical need for self-defense on the map. He understood that security and protection was interconnected with Black dignity especially since white supremacy and capitalism relied on sheer force to enslave black people. This racist intimidation was emitted from many different elements of white Amerikkkan society. It is what forbids the majority of Blacks from participating in any legitimate struggle whether it be consciously or unconsciously acknowledged.

Garvey's *Black Legion* wore military clothing, trained openly in military drills, and carried long swords publicly whenever it was legal to do so. It was an aboveground apparatus. When the US government's secret police force, known as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), recognized the threat of the *Black Legion*, Marcus Garvey was one of the first blacks put on the dangerous subversive list. The US government's secret war plan called Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) was originally created to target him and his organization. COINTELPRO's insidious use of legal and illegal tactics to disrupt and neutralize Garvey's "Back to Africa" movement consisted of informants, agent provocateurs, attempted assassinations, and bogus trumped up charges against innocent Black people in the UNIA.

Garvey's militia, 1920

Though the *Black Legion* never really engaged the racist authorities or any white supremacy organization in an aboveground confrontational political demonstration, the seed of potential of a clash was planted in the racist white psyche, so therefore, the UNIA was sought out to be eliminated. This is not to say that there were no underground aggressive attacks launched by the *Black Legion* but what we are mainly concerned with within this analysis is aboveground confrontation. We are very sure that there were secret strikes carried out by the *Black Legion* against critical racist targets. But the official policy of the UNIA towards the Black masses was that the *Black Legion* represented just the idea or concept of self-defense and was not a formation that engaged in serious direct confrontation. It mainly provided security for the organization and its leadership officials at public events or it paraded around in large formations as a self-defense symbol of dignity for Black people.

In the late 1950s Malcolm Little became Malcolm X after he joined the original Nation of Islam led by Elijah Muhammad. Malcolm X was fresh out of prison where he was recruited into the NOI. Since Malcolm was a former street hustler and ex-prisoner, he maintained a link to Black people in those areas. Elijah Muhammad gave Malcolm permission to organize those Blacks into self-defense unit called the Fruit of Islam (FOI). Malcolm brought brothers in off the streets and taught them judo, martial arts, military drills, discipline, and the NOI self-defense philosophy. Officially they carried no carnal (bodily) weapons. They didn't have a policy towards confrontational political demonstrations at that time mainly because they considered themselves to be primarily a spiritual organization.

Then on one amazing politically charged night, Malcolm X was put in an extraordinary dilemma when a NOI member was brutally beaten by the racist NY police. Robert was savagely dragged to the precinct and was being denied medical treatment after his head was busted open by police nightsticks. Malcolm, the head minister at the NY NOI temple, led a large, disciplined formation of the FOI through the streets of Harlem, causing a large commotion and a Black crowd of people followed them there. The Muslims lined up in a militant line facing the police station with the enormous crowd positioned behind them.

This militant action sent shock waves through the police station and community because this was the first time in the history of Black people in racist Amerikkka that anyone had the heart and courage to openly confront the police in such a strong manner! Then Malcolm boldly walked into the police station, flanked by just a couple of Muslims and let the other FOI members positioned in a long disciplined formation outside, casting a menacing silent aura. He went to the front desk and then demanded that the injured Muslim be given medical attention. The police in the station only agreed to the demand once they saw the large militant confrontation taking place outside. Malcolm walked out and then led the FOI and the gigantic crowd to the hospital to guarantee that the injured Muslim was given medical care. Once he was sure that the Muslim got the help he deserved, Malcolm

Continued on p. 2: On Confrontational Politics

ON CONFRONTATIONAL POLITICS

Continued from page 1

used just one hand turn and the Muslims did a militant right face and dispersed with the crowd in a matter of seconds! The white police officer who witnessed Malcolm X dismiss the Muslims with just one hand gesture, remarked out loud that "That's too much power for one Black man to have!" After this first ever use of confrontational politics, Malcolm X became well known and admired among local Black residents in New York when the newspapers reported the story the next morning. He was regarded as a true leader of the Black community who would not break down even in the face of overwhelming odds.

This was the last time Malcolm was allowed to use the FOI in a confrontational political demonstration. Yet, he was emboldened by this successful use of power against power and also began to publicly advocate the use of guns in self-defense of the Black community. He was later suspended and left the Nation of Islam. The US government put him under surveillance and directly in the gun sight of COINTELPRO's cross hairs. When his family was threatened and harassed by racist forces, he allowed himself to be photographed with a M-1 carbine assault rifle while he peered out of his home window. This picture became extremely popular throughout the Black movement as Malcolm's most worthy call for the need of armed self-defense of the Black community. This picture was definitely worth more than a thousand words for Black people.

The FOI went on to disavow and prohibit confrontational political demonstrations. They became a division within the Nation of Islam that provided security for Muslims and high leadership officials in the organization. They also focused on checking internal sub-divisions and activities of secret agents placed within the organization by racist forces and secured complete records of all persons employed by their organization. It is not known if they ever launched any underground strikes against their racist enemies but I believe most likely they did at sometime.

There were many different organizations that had a critical influence that advanced confrontational political strategy throughout the 1960s like Robert Williams' armed chapter of the NAACP, the Student 'Non-Violent' Coordinating Committee, the Deacons for Defense, Malcolm X's Organization of Afro-American Unity, the Revolutionary Action Movement, and a host of others. The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense started in 1966 by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, took confrontational politics to its highest level during the '60s. Minister of Defense Huey P. Newton was a street devotee to Malcolm X's theories and practice. In fact, the entire Black Panther Party for Self-Defense was created in the spirit of Malcolm X after Malcolm was brutally gunned down by COINTELPRO. Huey decided to confront the racist police forces in Oakland whenever they pulled over Black people and tried to brutalize them. Unlike the community patrol organization that just took pictures of random acts of police brutality that operated at that time in L.A, Huey took it a step further by patrolling the police while openly brandishing shotguns because it was still legal to do so in the state of California.

This was also a small scale adoption of Malcolm X's late night confrontation at the New York police station. Huey learned from Malcolm that the racist authorities could be effectively challenged and confronted with Black Power against White Power approach. As long as a group maintained a disciplined and legal posture, then the police could check on their illegal brutality and murder of Black people. Huey and Bobby also began to call the police "pigs" on these patrols because it was also a legal thing to do. Huey understood that such a serious act of confronting a deadly tentacle of our oppression in a militant way would inspire brothers and sisters from off the block to join the struggle for Black liberation.

Out on these patrols facing down the police while openly displaying their weapons helped the Panthers capture the hearts and minds of the Black community. When recruits from off the block began to stream into the Panthers, Huey and Bobby took the confrontations to an even higher level by being armed openly, confronting an entire police station after the savage police murder of Denzel Dowel. Many Black organizations at that time began to criticize the Black Panthers for being what they referred to as the Panthers being "prematurely paramilitary" and thought the Panthers should have kept their activities underground.

Huey responded to these absurd critiques by writing an article called "The Correct Handling of a Revolution." He pointed out that it was impossible to mobilize the community in a significant manner if the Black revolutionaries did not openly confront the racist enemy to educate the people to resistance. He correctly analyzed that those groups that tried to criticize the Panthers were imposters and fake revolutionaries because they wanted the people of the community to bear the pressure of the police retaliation for such resistance while the so-called revolutionaries hid. He accused these groups of being fake revolutionaries who did nothing but talk and were too afraid to draw the oppressors' blood! He wrote that any true revolutionaries always started out aboveground in order to educate the people to the revolutionary organization's existence and desire to help liberate the people, so the government would not be able to lie to the people and make them feel that the revolutionaries were some type of crazy fanatical violent group out to harm the community. He wrote that the group started out aboveground but eventually has to go underground once the oppressor began to target the group in an extreme manner. By then the revolutionaries would have already won the respect of the people and would have created conditions for underground operations to be carried out successfully with the protection of the community.

Eventually Huey's analysis of the struggle would be proven right, but the practice of the Panthers took a strategic sharp turn from this position. COINTELPRO sent out a directive to the California State Government to pass a law to effectively strip the Panthers of their right to openly carry guns in public by creating the Mulford Act in 1967. The Black Panthers marched on the state capital building openly armed with guns, while the politicians were in the process of passing the Mulford Act, and started the media into helping the Panthers organization. But the Mulford Act was passed, stripping the communities' right to openly bear arms, and eliminated the Panthers patrolling the police with guns. This is the critical point in the Panther history, when they began to confuse the mandatory separation necessary for aboveground and underground operational activities. Their "legal" confrontational politics dissolved into launching offensive strikes in the public arena when Huey carried a concealed handgun in a hollowed out legal book, he carried around on the night of the shootout between him and the Oakland Police took place. This one event has remained concealed from most people for over 40 years until the book, *Will You Die With Me?* by Flores "Fly" Forbes was published. In this book Fly exposes the truth about the death of officer Frey and the resulting *Free Huey* movement to save Huey from the gas chamber and get him released. Fly was a high-ranking Panther security official and personal bodyguard for Huey.

When Minister of Information Eldridge Cleaver took it upon himself to attempt to register an offensive retaliation against the system and openly shot cops in full Panther uniform after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., the Panthers were put permanently on a course of confusion towards the proper practice and balance between aboveground and underground operations. This also provided the government a convenient way to convince the public that the Panthers were crazed fanatics in need of extermination and should be deemed Public Enemy Number One!

Eventually the Panthers were manipulated by COINTELPRO into violently feuding with each other in a tragic episode most have come to regard as "the split" in the organization. Incorrectly thought of as the East Coast chapters against the West Coast chapters, it was more accurately a division between those Panthers who wanted to stay aboveground and those who wanted to go underground. The aboveground faction sided with Huey and the underground sided with Eldridge. None of them realized then that the government's COINTELPRO had set them all up and manipulated the wedge between them by manufacturing precise handwritten letters and signatures of both Huey and Eldridge. One letter was written to Huey, signed by the government in Eldridge's handwriting stating that Eldridge intended to do serious harm to Huey. The other letter was written to Eldridge by the government in Huey's handwriting stating that Huey intended to shoot at Eldridge. Divide and conquer led to the destruction of the most highly advanced Black organization of the 1960's for Black people trapped in the hells of Amerikkka! All this could have been avoided if the Black Panthers adhered to a strict line of aboveground armed self-defense and underground armed struggle.

Out of this unfortunate disaster of the most effective groups in the 1960's Black Liberation struggle arose a war-torn group of Panther Elders from that period, who embody a pessimistic post-traumatic stress defeatism. There are a few elders from that era who still have faith in the struggle for freedom so there are some exceptions to the rule, but most elders from back then took to criticizing the youth for their lack of knowledge of self, fighting each other, and apolitical ways. These holier-than-thou, self-righteous elders fail to take responsibility for being manipulated by COINTELPRO into Black (Panther) on Black (Panther) violence themselves. Instead of being brave and properly educating us, the youth just inherited the Black on Black violence from these elders. Some of them even go so far as to still be foolish enough to feud with each other to this very day at different Panther reunions and rallies for political prisoners who are still locked down from back then!

The Black Riders are the New Generation Black Panthers. We have scientifically analyzed history and mastered the art of confrontational politics. We started off striking fear in the enemy by creating our Watch-A-Pig program. This hard line program consists of fearless Black Rider Warriors who wear camouflaged paramilitary fatigues, berets, and big black boots. We patrol the ruthless barbarian police with video cameras, high tech walkie-talkies, state of the art police scanners, TASERs, mace, bats, knives, and any other legal weapons we can get hold of. This educates Black people to be fearless against police terrorism. Many people have come out of their homes with their own video cameras or camera phones and joined us in line to help watch the pigs, to stop them from hurting the Black community. We have been operating the Watch-A-Pig program for over thirteen years now. Since the passage of the Mulford Act outlawing the original Panthers' and the communities' right to openly carry guns in public, we keep legally registered guns on security in Black Rider homes and buildings in case the pigs attack us unjustly and we have to defend ourselves. We openly do military drills and carry long swords or machetes whenever legal to do so. We train in many different martial arts armed and unarmed combat styles like short staff, sword fighting, katana, Judo, Kung-Fu, Dynamic kicks, arts of breaking, and especially Shodokan death blows. Most of our warriors have developed unorthodox fighting methods gleaned from survival on the dangerous Los Angeles gangland streets.

We have launched large-scale confrontations against many different military type pig stations all over L.A. The most known confrontational political demonstration we did was when we struck the LAPD headquarters "Thirty Deep" strong seething with animosity, hostility, and stern faced, after they savagely murdered a 13 year old boy named Devin Brown in 2005. We led 500 people in a full-scale clash with the armed supremacist group called the Minutemen and their racist police bodyguards in Leimert Park. We kicked the "Minute-Klan" completely out the "hood." We also stood face to face against overwhelming odds, when we ran up on the gigantic L.A Federal Building to confront the viciously sadistic FBI because of their unjust attack and political incarceration of the San Francisco 8 Panther Elders stemming from a charge that happened way back in 1971.

We have an upgraded self-defense philosophy and a strict policy of separating aboveground and underground activity. The US government's new COINTELPRO called Homeland Security and their PATRIOT Act guidelines have tried to attack us many times and we have defended ourselves from their weak, mindless attempts to eliminate our organization. We will advance the New Black Liberation Movement wave after wave until our people's freedom is secured. He who does not fear the death of a thousand cuts will dare to unseat the emperor!

The Black man and Black woman, once culturally inspired, properly trained, and boldly led, are the greatest human fighting machines the world has ever known!

POLITICS IS WAR WITHOUT BLOODSHED AND WAR IS POLITICS WITH BLOODSHED!
POWER TO THE PEOPLE
WHO DON'T FEAR FREEDOM!

General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out) is a member of the Central Committee of the BRLP, a political prisoner in "minimum security" on the streets with a GPS ankle bracelet (21st Century shackle) monitoring his movements.
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Rumors – January-March 2011

Street Stories of fascist and anti-fascist activity around the US and Canada

Compiled by Hub City ARA

Jan. – Chicago, IL: South Side Chicago ARA released information from their intel files about Grand Rapids area bonehead Michael Peterson.

Jan. – Phoenix, AZ: Phoenix area anarchists initiated a march in the arts district of downtown Phoenix for the monthly "First Friday" artwalk. The call was in response to the deaths of two immigrant youths who were found in a canal after fleeing from a Maricopa County Sheriff Deputy near Gila Bend, and the murder of a third youth, who was shot and killed by a Border Patrol agent while climbing the border wall in Nogales.

Jan. -- Spokane, WA: An anti-personnel bomb was found in the path of a scheduled Martin Luther King Day march for equality.

Feb. – Charlotte, NC: Anti-racists successfully prevented the racist "American Renaissance" conference from occurring in Charlotte and celebrated the occasion by holding a small rally and press conference.

Feb. – Seattle, WA: A roving gang of rioters smashed property and attacked Seattle police with fireworks, flares and fire extinguishers Saturday night near the site where an officer shot a woodcarver to death last August.

Feb. – Portland, OR: A statement was released claiming responsibility for smashing the windows of a police contact station and attributed it to revenge for recent police murders and repression in Seattle.

Feb. – Seattle, WA: A nazi bonehead was caught on video by a local news crew getting his ass beat by two people of color he attempted to rob and run out of a local park. Unfortunately, the local news reporter (a person of color) intervened and saved the bonehead.

Feb. – Tacoma, WA: On the morning of February 28th, a Tacoma Police Department building had all its windows smashed out and some paint thrown on the facade. This was done as part of the West Coast call out for two days of action against the police.

Mar. – Calgary: Local bonehead crew the Aryan Guard attempted to hold a march but were foiled when local police said they could not protect them from several hundred antifascist demonstrators mobilized by Calgary ARA. The boneheads hopped a bus and went home to reinvent a reason for getting so thoroughly embarrassed. One member of Aryan Guard was arrested on outstanding warrants and one antifa was arrested. Calgary has become somewhat of a battleground lately, with nazi attacks on the rise, culminating in a brutal attack on Calgary ARA member Jason Devine in the home in his and his family that ended in serious injuries for Devine and a friend of his. (See report in last issue of ***TTT***).

Mar. - Chicago: 2 members of "The 77's," a local punk crew with a long history of harassing people of color and assaulting the homeless were treated to a well-deserved beat down by local antifa.

Mar. - Chicago: Secrets, a head shop that employs Nazi and NSM member Susan Lenner, had its front window mashed with a cinderblock that had "Fire Suzy" written on it. Here's hoping they take the hint.

Mar. – Claremont, CA: Police managed to keep several hundred anti-racists and 24 members of the neo-nazi National Socialist Movement separate as the NSM staged an anti-immigrant rally.

Mar. – Montreal, QB: Several vehicles belonging to the Public Security Ministry of Quebec were doused in paint stripper and had their tires slashed. This Ministry oversees the provincial prisons and police forces. A statement was released attributing the action to solidarity with those from Seattle and the pacific northwest who have been struggling with several incidents of police murder and brutality of late.

Mar. – New Brunswick, NJ: Hub City ARA released a sample of their intelligence files one month before the National Socialist Movement's planned march in Trenton, NJ on April 16th. These files included two profiles of Jason Heicke and Toni Stamos, two NJ NSM organizers as well as information on American Front, American 3rd Positionists, and other nazi groups operating in NJ.

Mar. – New Jersey: Before you could say "fuck off you g.g. allin wannabe goons," New Jersey nazi-afilliated, rape-advocating, all-around scumfuck band *Call the Paramedics* was taken off another gig in the northeast. This time (for the 3rd time) it was at a Clifton bar called Dingbatz, who (for a 3rd time) cancelled the band, this time almost immediately after antifa became aware of the situation. *Call the Paramedics* lost more than 80% of their last tour's shows thanks to exposure from One People's Project and ARA, and if anyone should see them playing in their area, don't let that shit go down.

Mar. – Olympia, WA: A police substation at 200 Perry street was targeted twice in two weeks. In the first attack its front window was smashed and two patrol cars were damaged. In the second a small fire did some minor damage to the substation.

Mar. – Santa Cruz, CA: Two Santa Cruz County Sheriff Department vehicles were attacked on the night of March 15th. Their tires were slashed and etching fluid was thrown onto their windows. A statement released

Mar.- Tacoma, WA: a police car had paint thrown on it, etching fluid was used to ruin at least three windows. A statement was released dedicating the action to "those comrades imprisoned in chile, on hunger strike…"

Mar.- Windsor, NC: A noisy demo was held outside a rural prison. The demonstrators had several gigantic banners reading "Against Prisons" and "Hands Off James Graham." (Graham is one of several prisoners in Windsor facing punishment for his role in organizing there.

Confront David Irving's 2011 Holocaust Denial Tour

by South Chicago ARA

The notorious holocaust denier and Nazi sympathizer David Irving is at it again, attempting another US tour of thirty cities across the Southern, Western and Midwestern states. The topic of this year's speaking engagements? "The Life and Death of Heinrich Himmler, Hitler's lieutenant." Irving's fraudulent and methodical endeavors to rewrite history commonly attract other neo-Nazi miscreants and white supremacists to his gatherings. We're calling upon anti-racist organizations and individuals to confront his tour every step of the way, and send a clear message that revisionism and fascist organizing is not welcome in our communities.

His troubled recollection of basic history must extend to the more recent past, when he encountered fierce antifa resistance the last time he came to the states in late 2009. The fact that Irving can't go out in public without facing angry mobs trying to run him out of town has forced Irving to organize in secret, going through great lengths to screen potential attendees to his event, never revealing the location until the last minute, and hiring private security. This has never stopped protesters from shutting down his events nor has it provided any sort of security or privacy for the racist scum that attempt to hear Irving speak.

In New Jersey, dozens of anti-fascists filled the Pompton Plains hotel, chanting and struggling with attendees. They were so effective in disrupting the event that police had to escort attendees out. The same happened a day later in NYC, where the event was not only disrupted, but both Irving's tour manager Jaenelle Antas and neo-Nazi friend Alex Carmichael were pepper-sprayed. Faced with humiliation and defeat, Irving was forced to cancel his next few scheduled appearances, but the chaos did not end there. Days later his Chicago event was shut down when dozens of masked anti-fascists stormed into the Edelweiss restaurant turning over tables, destroying his merchandise, and assaulting attendees, while Irving and Antas locked themselves in a supply closet in a magnificent display of cowardice.

Right in the middle of his failed east coast appearances, his websites were also attacked by anti-fascist hackers who released his private emails and databases to WikiLeaks. The emails gave hilarious details of the frustrations caused by Irving's infatuation with his much younger assistant Jaenelle, and also eventually caused his landlord to kick Irving out of his Winsdor home. More importantly, this leak revealed private speaking locations as well as names and addresses of dozens of racist Nazi sympathizers who purchased tickets – a warning to those who would consider purchasing a ticket to Irving's gatherings.

The conflicts that populated Irving's 2009 tour exemplify the danger that venues are sure to face should they host his events. Irving, fearing confrontations during his tour, had hired "Tip of the Spear," a group which advertises private security for white power events. At the 2009 Palm Beach function, the very people he hired for security had initiated a knife fight amongst warring neo-Nazi attendees Christopher Nachtman and John Kopko. The event was booked under Focal Point Productions and the Ritz-Carlton had no idea who Irving was. Additionally, one person attending last year's Chicago function, John Gisselbrech, was hospitalized during the antifa disruption, hurt so badly that he has hired the prominent Deratany Firm to file a lawsuit against David Irving, his publishing company Focal Point Productions, and Edelweiss Restaurant (who hosted Irving for the second year in a row) for failing to make adequate security precautions. The million dollars at stake may shut down these businesses down–yet another warning of what might happen to spaces that host fascist speaking events. Further, they give warning to the puerile few considering attending, as to just what might happen if they do attend. They will be confronted, exposed, shut down, and humiliated.

Interestingly, David Irving's tour manager and personal assistant for the second year in a row is Jaenelle Antas (7823 Ella Dobbs Ln, Indianapolis, IN 46227 317-379-8871 / 305 923 9400). Despite the unforgettable troubles stemming from the 2009 tour (the pepper-spray and Irving's elderly sexual advances) is giving him another chance and is handling all booking and ticket sales for his tour. The former Assistant to the Chair of the Indiana Libertarian Party, Jaenelle is also involved in her local white supremacist scene in Indianapolis, belonging to the hate group "Hoosier Nation" which is organizing to support Indiana's anti-immigrant bill SB590.

David Irving, much like our own Chicago-based holocaust denier (and Northwestern University professor) Arthur Butz (2214 Central St, Apt 3 Evanston, IL 60201) and all other proponents of holocaust denial, have a very specific agenda that, upon further examination, has less to do with spreading their distorted fantasies, and more about Nazi sympathy, scapegoating Jews, and legitimizing racism. Holocaust deniers are attempting to lift the taboo off the holocaust in order to make Nazism a more accepted mass political ideology; in other words, they deny the holocaust so that it can happen again. Even some Nazis, such as William Pierce, find this to be absurd, claiming that holocaust denial proves one to be incapable of living up to the duties of white nationalism. Pierce and those who recognize that the holocaust happened believe it is something to be proud of and feel it should be understood as something necessary.

We anti-fascists find this historical perversion appalling, but — more importantly — find it an impetus to destroy their quest of creating a potential for fascism to gain ground. David Irving's attempts to legitimize such a movement and to victimize Nazis as being bad jacketed must be met with organized militant resistance and shut down everywhere he attempts to make an appearance.

Below are the dates and locations where David Irving is scheduled to make an appearance. He frequently books his events under fake names to mislead the venues into not knowing what exactly they are getting into, and to prevent the possibility of being confronted by anti-fascists.

Demonstrate Against Hate in O.C.
April 23 @ 10605 Lawson River Ave.
Fountain Valley CA 92708

April 9: Indianapolis, IN
April 10: St. Louis, MO
April 12: Dallas, TX
April 13: Houston, TX
April 15: San Antonio, TX
April 16: El Paso, TX
April 17: Albuquerque, NM
April 20: Las Vegas, NV
April 21: Phoenix, AZ
April 22: Sherman Oaks CA
April 23: Fountn Valley CA
April 28: San Francisco, CA
April 29: Sacramento, CA
May 1: Portland, OR
May 2: Seattle, WA
May 3: Spokane, WA
May 4: Kalispell, MT
May 6: Billings, MT
May 8: Bismarck, ND
May 9: Fargo, ND
May 10: Minneapolis, MN
May 11: Madison, WI
May 12: Chicago, IL
May 13: Detroit, MI

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL SPEAKS

On Revolution

Revolutions to Come

[col. writ. 2/26/11] (c) '11 Mumia Abu-Jamal

As fires of rebellion and resistance flash through ancient Arab cities, the nations' pundits (especially those of the rightish variety) warn us of impending doom, in the form of rising gas prices, and the bugaboo of near-hysterical proportions -- Islamists.

But there's a funny thing about rebellions and revolutions. They may begin one way, but no one - No One - knows where they will end. That's the nature of revolutions!

The voices of America's pundit class have apparently forgotten that the Founders that they like to revere and praise as Prophets of Freedom, were -- well, revolutionaries, who stood against the most powerful empire of the age -- the British (with a little help and money from the French)

The very notion of having a nation without a king was, well -- a revolutionary idea. That's why, when France had its revolution a few years later, the crowned heads of Europe got together (conspired, really) to beat them into the ground. For, back in those days, the conventional wisdom was that kings and queens ruled by the will of God; hence, the divine right of kings.

The American, French, and Haitian Revolutions put a real dent into such notions.

Abe Lincoln, speaking as a Congressman in 1848, told his fellow members: "It is a quality of revolutions not to go by old lines and old laws; but to break up both, and make new ones."

The forces roiling today in several North African and Persian Gulf countries have been held in check for generations by powerful, repressive and ruthless governments, many of whom have been staunch U.S. allies.

The forces which have been unleashed in recent weeks threaten to upend many, if not most of the old relationships and understandings that formed the basis of U.S. Mid-East policy.

Remarkably, none of the 'experts' on the region, few of the scholars, and virtually none of the talking heads on TV and cable had a clue, until the dam broke and the boiling rage burst forth.

We have no idea when or where these forces will dissipate. They may radiate for years. They may, indeed, spill out into other areas of the world.

That too, is the nature of revolution.

On Libya

'Bombing His Own People?'

[col. writ. 3/5/11] (c) '11 Mumia Abu-Jamal

As pro and anti-government forces battle for supremacy in the cities and deserts of Libya, in North Africa, the tenor and tone of U.S./Western reporting puts the lie to the often heard claim of journalistic objectivity.

The cheer-leading seems more apt for ESPN than on the nation's leading newscasts, spurred on, of course, by U.S. enmity against Col. Moammar Khaddafy, who has long been a thorn in the side of U.S. Imperial designs on the region.

Let us not pretend that American efforts are caused by solicitude for the suffering Libyan people, for easily 10 (or perhaps, 30!) times that number suffered under Egypt's President-for-life (and trusty U.S. ally), Hosni Mubarak, and the U.S. turned a deaf ear for decades to their cries. Only when the people rose up, and took the stage, did the U.S. start mumbling phrases about 'human rights' , and concerns about 'violence'.

This, from a government that secretly sent (and may still be sending) men to Egyptian hellholes to be tortured via rendition --and killed by the dreaded secret police.

Indeed, anyone with a smattering of American history cannot even hear the media and political charges of a government attacking or bombing 'its own people' without cringing. For U.S. National Guard fired semi-automatic weapons at unarmed students in Kent State University, Ohio, killing 4 kids who were protesting the Vietnam War. Shortly thereafter, 2 Black kids were shot and killed by cops at Jackson State University, Mississippi, during a similar protest. Philadelphia, PA was the site of a government bombing a home, killing men, women and babies. This was the MOVE Bombing of May 13, 1985, where 11 people were bombed to death, and a whole city block reduced to smoldering rubble. **Were any of these bombers 'brought to justice?'**

And when Israel unleashed Operation Cast Lead against the Occupied Territories in Gaza, killing over 1,400 Palestinians - men, women, children, and the elderly -- and a respected South African judge, Richard Goldstone issued a report calling the strafings, bombings and high caliber shooting of civilians "war crimes", what did the Obama administration do? Did it criticize the bombers, or the judge?

Well -- guess. (If you guessed the judge, you were right, and it gives you some idea of how much the U.S. government cares about human rights, violence, governments bombing unarmed civilians, or the suffering of Arabs under repressive regimes)

Here's the lesson: Rebels, in every nation, catch hell.

On Japan

Japanese Winter

[col. writ. 3/13/11] (c) '11 Mumia Abu-Jamal

The earth quakes, and the 'land of the rising sun' becomes a nation veiled in tears.

Tsunamis splash black water over miles of farmland, and cars bob around like inflatables in a bathtub.

Then, with electricity down, by rushing waters, nuclear power plants overheat, and we hear a word not heard for decades: meltdown.

It is too early to offer a definitive death toll (it is certainly in the thousands), but already endangered is the popularity of nuclear power plants.

It comes only months after the Obama administration pronounced its support for nuclear plant construction, an echo, of sorts, of its corporate-backed endorsement of deep sea oil drilling, shortly before the BP Deep Horizon oil spill of summer, 2010.

Of the top 30 nations utilizing nuclear energy, Japan is right in the middle (#15), generating almost 30% of its energy needs.

It is the irony of ironies that the only nation that experienced a nuclear bomb attack, Japan, is now threatened by meltdowns caused by natural disaster.

The country bombed by the U.S. experienced black rain and mass death. This disaster now upon it wrought black waves and thousands of deaths.

It is truly winter in Japan.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a political prisoner and Black journalist, supporter of MOVE and former Black Panther on Death Row in PA. Write him:

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Audio at: http://www.prisonradio.org

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK

FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) **WE GO WHERE THEY GO:** Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) **WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US:** This doesn't mean we never go to court, but the cops uphold white supremacy and the status quo, They attack us and everyone that resists oppression. We must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) **NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS:** In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) **We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom.** ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a free classless society. **WE INTEND TO WIN!**

Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror
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info@antiracistaction.org

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Housing is a Human Right: Take Back the Land!

By Michael Novick, L.A. Housing and Hunger Crisis Conference, GrassrootsKPFK

Are you facing foreclosure or eviction? Are the police trying to sweep you off the street or drive you out of public housing? Are you struggling to put food on the table for your family? **YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

More than 20% of Angelenos are not able to eat nutritious meals every day. Hundreds of thousands of homeowners face foreclosure. LA is carrying out a national strategy to privatize public housing and drive poor families to the outskirts of the region. Police treat poor and homeless people like criminals. Meanwhile schools and transportation are used to anchor real estate deals to gentrify neighborhoods. Public funds subsidize sports multi-millionaires. Taxpayers are forced to bail out the banks that have caused the housing crisis and economic crash.

It's time to stop blaming ourselves or looking for scapegoats. It's time to get together, figure out the roots of these problems, and begin to take collective direct action to solve our problems once and for all.

People are fighting back, across southern California and the US and around the world. People are struggling for food and water sovereignty, to defend the human right to housing and to take back the land! On April 8-10, an important conference on the housing and hunger crisis in Los Angeles will be held at the Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research and the Angelus Plaza auditorium downtown. It will bring together people victimized by the banks and the government in the current crisis, including homeowners facing foreclosure, tenants facing eviction or slum conditions, public housing residents facing privatization and displacement, and homeless people confronted by police sweeps and hate crimes. We will be addressing issues of hunger as well. As the food banks are being overwhelmed by families in need, the issue of food and water sovereignty must be a high priority.

At the conference, we will attempt to build practical unity for a collective fight-back around all these issues, while addressing some key questions. Why did the current economic crisis develop and spread out of the real estate sector in the U.S.? How did the collapse of housing prices and home sales, and the resulting credit crunch, lead to unyielding double digit unemployment? Why is the system willing to spend millions on a parking lot for real estate magnate Eli Broad's museum, but unwilling to maintain and provide decent public housing? Why are the prisons and jails, as Mumia Abu-Jamal has said, the largest public housing projects in the US?

What theoretical and strategic understandings can guide us in fighting back against the bailout of the banks even as they continue to foreclose on tens of thousands? How can we link together the separate struggles being waged by homeowners with those of tenants, public housing residents, and the homeless? How is it that land, so central to the economy and to life itself, is so often overlooked in economic and political analysis?

The system wants us to blame ourselves or to scapegoat others for these problems. But it is not the fault of the individual mortgage holder coerced by redlining into an adjustable rate sub-prime mortgage on an over-valued property. The impoverished residents of public housing or sub-standard slums are not to blame. The system wants to stigmatize unhoused people and those living in vehicles, or get us to point the finger at migrants. But the formerly incarcerated people looking for transitional housing should feel no shame, nor the unemployed and underemployed hunting desperately for jobs that aren't there. The fault is neither in our stars nor in ourselves – it is the system that's guilty.

Land -- the earth and water and all the creatures they support -- have always been the source of US wealth and the keystone of the US Empire. In the blood-soaked soil of southern CA in particular, "real estate" has been the linch-pin of capitalist wealth accumulation. When I wait for the train outside KPFK at the Metro Red Line Universal Studios station, the history of land theft is festooned on the platform, recounting the inglorious adventures of Indian killer Kit Carson and land-locked 'privateer' John Fremont in the conquest of Los Angeles and California. When the city dug to build a cultural center in La Plaza downtown, they unearthed the bones of the indigenous people who were here first.

The collapse of the housing bubble and the resulting credit crisis and bail-out of Wall Street revealed the truth of the importance of land to capital and capitalism -- the open secret that the mortgage market is larger than the stock market. This underscores the fact that land and labor are the basis of all wealth. Debt, especially mortgage debt, far exceeds equity. Even without the drop-off in housing prices after their absurd and unsustainable run up, interest payments on mortgages are always much greater than the value of the homes that guarantee them.

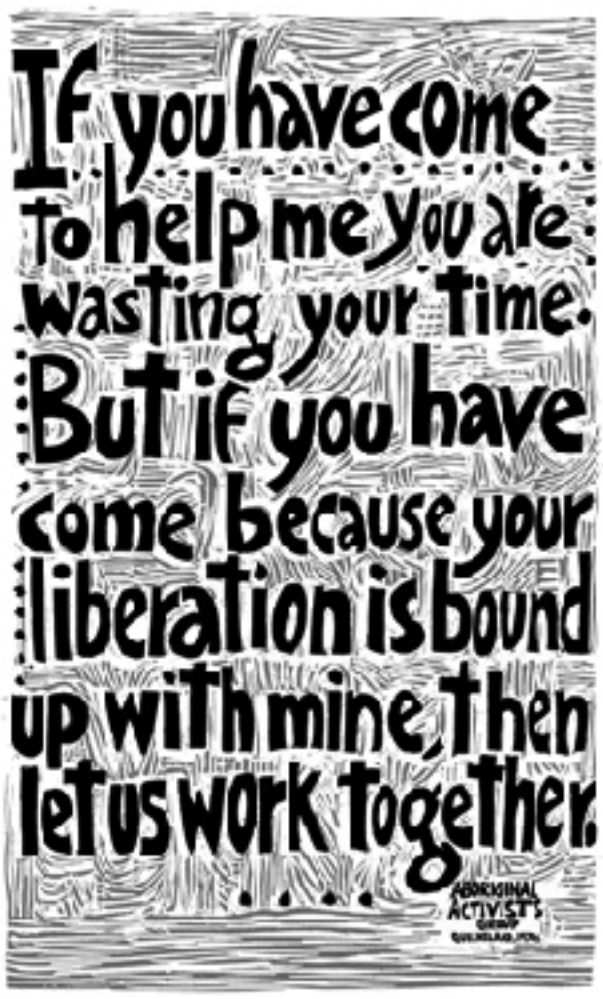
The effort by the banks to disguise this reality by "securitizing" toxic loans – pretending to turn bad debt into a kind of asset or equity – only magnified the problem. The popping of the bubble exposed a deeper reality – that land, housing and how we organize and finance them are as central to the nature of this system as labor. Real wealth is not in money or even gold, but in the land, its resources and the labor of its inhabitants. That's why to really deal with the current crisis in housing, or foreclosures, evictions and gentrification, we will need to take on the system and transform it.

Capitalism began with the transformation of land, and of nature itself, into "capital" through the private expropriation of the commons. By privatizing land and turning housing into a commodity, a proletariat was created that had to sell its labor power to survive. The extension of this system from Europe around the globe through settler colonialism is at the base of the subsequent "globalization" of capital. Empire is a house of cards based on the illegitimate conquest and theft of the land. Solidarity and unity in solving the problems of unemployment, layoffs, foreclosures or evictions, must begin with support for self-determination and sovereignty.

Title to land is not suddenly problematic only because the banks sliced and diced mortgages to sell them off in "credit default swaps." There is a fundamental challenge to the Empire's title to the land raised by the Hawaiians, the Maya, the Mohawk, the peoples of Africa, the Aboriginal Australians and all other indigenous peoples. It undermines the concepts of private ownership of land and of Empire-state national boundaries. It exposes the theft and fraud on which the edifice of mortgage debt, credit default swaps and derivatives rested and ultimately collapsed. It helps explain why high homeownership rates in the US, subsidized by tax policy, have helped to suppress working class struggle and unity.

The ability of the Empire to loot the resources and labor of people in Africa, Asia and Latin America, including the social wealth accumulated in the old Soviet bloc and in China under "communism," resulted in levels of capital accumulation unparalleled in human history. Bust follows capitalist 'boom' -- vast, steep and protracted economic contraction. It should not surprise us that just as in Eastern Europe, both the accumulation and the contraction have entailed the elimination of the life savings and social security of hundreds of millions of people. The imposition of austerity through attacks on the social safety net, public education and social services and pensions, is now spreading and deepening into an attack on organized labor. In Eastern Europe, privatization of social wealth resulted in a near-genocidal reduction in life expectancy. The pension system was looted by new, and newly rich, private entrepreneurs. We can expect the same here unless we unite and fight back.

The state carried out the expropriation of the lands and conquest of the peoples on which the production system is based. It has enforced the on-going social relationships that allow for the extraction of private wealth from economic growth. How long will the power of the state enforce the continuing extraction and accumulation of wealth from economic contraction (which may involve fascist or totalitarian methods of rule as it did during the Great Depression)? The answer depends on our ability to unite our separate but inter-related struggles and to recognize that winning requires a fundamental transformation of the economy, and our relationship to each other and to the land.



The Los Angeles Housing and Hunger Crisis Conference is an effort to advance that necessary process. The super-rich, the banks and the politicians have always used divide-and-conquer techniques to keep us from seeing that all their wealth comes from the people they exploit, and all their power comes from the people they oppress. By uniting, we can exert our power. The conference aims to bring together at a grassroots level people facing all the manifestations of this crisis, and to build unity in practice based on solidarity and mutual aid.

We will combine practical workshops about how to avoid foreclosure or eviction, defend tenants' rights, stop homeless sweeps and protect public housing and parks, with direct action strategies for growing and sharing healthy food, and rebuilding the commons. We will discuss using foreclosed housing and shuttered buildings to provide shelter fit for human habitation while we also seek to confront those corporate forces and politicians who have been gorging themselves at the expense of the common public good.

Come learn about indigenous rights, tenant and homeowner organizing, urban gardening and farmers' markets, urban environmental justice, and how to "fight city hall" and win! Meet Rob Robinson of the "Take Back the Land" Movement in New York, Miami and DC. Come share your own organizing efforts and struggles, share perspectives and help shape on-going strategies to shift the balance of power in favor of popular sovereignty, self-determination and solidarity. We can only solve these problems by building a strong movement that can transform the economic and political system that produces them!

The LA Housing and Hunger Crisis Conference will take place over three days. On Friday, April 8, from 7-10:00 PM at the Southern California Library, 6120 S. Vermont, LA there will be an opening program on the Culture of Resistance with music, art, teatro and spoken word. On Saturday, April 9, from 10 AM - 4:00 PM, the conference will shift to the Angelus Plaza Auditorium, at 255 S. Hill St. for the keynote speakers and plenary, skills share, know your rights and educational workshops, and a free lunch. On Sunday, April 10, from 12 noon-4:00 PM it returns to SCL, 6120 S. Vermont Ave., L.A. for strategy and alliance-building workshops.

The conference is sponsored by a coalition that includes GrassrootsKPFK, South Central Farmers, ARA, Coffee Party, Food Not Bombs, Workers Solidarity Alliance, Echo Park Community Leadership Council, Union de Vecinos, Black Riders and Brown Riders Liberation Party, Watercorps, Maggie Phair Institute and the MLK Coalition for Jobs, Justice and Peace. For more info, call 310-495-0299, or email h2c2la@yahoo.com.

Editor's note: March 2011 marked the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, proclaimed by an international socialist congress to commemorate working women's struggles for rights, equality and better working conditions in the U.S. It's also the centennial of the deadly Triangle Shirtwaist Fire in New York, where dozens of poor, mostly migrant working girls and women were incinerated or crushed due to exploitative, unsafe sweatshop conditions. Late in life, my mother told me that before she herself was born, her own aunt, Rose Friedman, had died in that fire, an odd skeleton to keep in the closet of a staunch trade union family. Imperialism pretends that "we've come a long way, baby," and that "post-feminist" women needn't worry about liberation. Yet women's oppression and exploitation, as much within the US as around the world, is a still a key prop of capital, empire and reaction; and women's struggle for liberation is a key force in the development of popular movements with the power to build a new and better world. Susan Galleymore, known to readers of TTT as an activist in support of GI resistance, here speaks out about the plight and power of women in contemporary struggle.—*Ed.*

Another International Women's Day,
another seventy-seven cents on the dollar

By Susan Galleymore

It's still true: for every $1 a man in the US earns, a middle class, married woman earns 77 cents – and many women of color, even when heads of household, earn less than that. But such a quantitative view barely indicates the day-to-day lived experience behind the numbers. The wage disparities between US men and women are meaningless in developing countries. Even in countries that have minimum wage regulations – such as South Africa – they are easily ignored: the desperate are forced to accept whatever they're offered rather than stand on principle … and go hungry. After my travels in the past few years to South Africa, Iraq, Israel, and Palestine I can report that, on International Women's Day, overall opportunities for women in these countries have shriveled. In Johannesburg, Baghdad and West Bank villages even a quick look around shows women's lives are more hazardous than ever -- and wage rates are only a small factor in the decline.

South Africa has one of the largest income inequalities in the world. The average income of the richest 20% of South African households, mostly white, is 45 times more than the average income of the poorest 20% of households, largely black and African. The majority of this nation's poor are rural African women whose incomes -- between R400 and R700 per month ($1 = R7) -- derive mainly from pensions and remittances from relatives. But the bleak picture for South African women doesn't end there. This country holds the dubious honor of "rape capital of the world." In 1999, one in three of the 4,000 women questioned by the non-governmental organization CIET Africa, said they had been raped in the past year. In a related survey conducted among 1,500 schoolchildren in the Soweto Township, a quarter of all the boys interviewed said that "'jackrolling" – vernacular for recreational gang rape - was "fun." Rape in South Africa frequently culminates in death – by stabbing, by bludgeoning, by strangling, or by a combination of these – and disemboweling is a common coup de grâce. Babies as young as nine months are "jackrolled," too, often by groups of adult men attempting to cure their HIV/AIDS via the mythic "sex with a virgin" prescription. In 2003, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in South African adults was 21.5%. Over 5.3 of 44 million South Africans carry the virus; life expectancy for women is 41.2 years.

Up close and personal: Eleanor is a middle-aged, working class, Xhosa woman with two grown children. The end of Apartheid in 1994 made her life easier: the demise of Apartheid's in-flux laws, for example, allowed her to work legally in Kwa-Zulu Natal where she'd spent her adult life hiding her ethnic origins so as to earn a living as a live-in domestic worker. Apartheid, however, had worked its poison on her children, whose economic opportunities were stunted by a system that instilled a view of themselves as good only for menial labor. Eleanor's son, Lucky, found crime paid better than the below-minimum wage he earned as a gas station attendant or working for tips as a parking lot attendant. His luck ran out, however, when a young woman he'd raped spotted him in the street and called the police. Lucky is currently awaiting trail in a local jail notorious for inmate-on-inmate rape and an excruciatingly high rate of HIV/AIDS transmission. Eleanor intuitively understands Lucky's future but feels she can't do anything about it: Apartheid may be gone but women's view of the state as omnipotent lives on….

Iraq: Since the United State and its coerced "coalition of the willing" invaded Iraq in March 2003 only the most intrepid statisticians collect data in that unfortunate country… and that data presents a ghastly view. Johns Hopkins researchers estimate that more than a half-million Iraqis have died as a result of the U.S.-led invasion and its bloody aftermath. Researchers for the online edition of a leading British medical journal, The Lancet, estimated that 654,000 more Iraqis died of various causes after the invasion than would have died in a comparable period before. About 600,000 of those deaths are attributed to acts of violence, with gunshots emerging as the leading cause of death (56 percent of the total); air strikes, car bombs and other explosions each accounted for an additional 13 to 14 percent. Almost 60 percent of the deaths were among males aged 15 to 44. "To put these numbers in context, deaths are occurring in Iraq now at a rate more than three times that from before the invasion of March 2003. In this conflict, like all other recent conflicts, it's the population that bears the consequences," said Dr. Gilbert Burnham, lead author and co-director of the Center for Refugee and Disaster Response at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Up close and personal: Anwar Jeward's husband, son, and two daughters were shot to death when a U.S. patrol opened fire on the family car. Today Anwar lives in her brother's home with her surviving daughter, Abir, and Hassan, the son with whom she was pregnant when the shooting occurred. With marriage one of the few options for some sort of independence and respect for women with Anwar's traditional background, as an over-35-year-old single mother and a widow, her chance at a second marriage is about zero…even if enough marriageable men existed in Iraq. Since between half a million and 1.5 million people died in the eight-year war between Iraq and Iran and, with the death toll in current war, Iraqi men of that age are a dwindling minority. So Anwar will live in her brother's home and Abir and Hassan will not even benefit from the social programs that Saddam Hussein offered during his tenure as the U.S.-defined and supported "Butcher of Baghdad." Those programs – free education, a decent and cost-effective national medical plan, and enlightened laws and programs to up-lift Iraqi women and their children -- disappeared with Saddam and the ascendancy of the U.S. privatization schemes. Prior to the sanctions imposed upon Iraq during the 1990s, women's salaries, status and independent opportunities had been among the highest in the Arab world.

Israel and the West Bank/Gaza Occupied Territories are so closely intertwined in the politics of pain that it is difficult to present one without the other. Women in these regions face major differences in access to resources that go far beyond wage disparity. Israeli/Palestinian unemployment rates -- respectively 8.6% to 20.3% in 2006 -- indicate that about 79% of Palestinians are employed. These percentages include Palestinians engaged in agricultural work, but don't indicate that many Palestinians farmers and agricultural workers are not in fact working. Instead, they are cut off from their workplaces – orchards and fields – by the 30-foot tall concrete wall or wire fence that cuts farmers off from their agricultural lands. Israelis view the wall as a vital "security barrier" that prevents suicide bombers from entering their towns. More to the point, though, is that just about every action that alleviates an Israeli woman's daily chores – driving a car or catching a bus or taxi, taking a child to a medical facility, assuming relative safety for a child returning home after school – aggravates a Palestinian woman's chores. Some roads in the West Bank, for example, are prohibited to Palestinian cars, buses, and taxis, so these travelers are forced miles out of their way to cover short distances.

Up close and personal: Israeli Dorothy and Palestinian Amina present two sides of the same contradictory coin. Dorothy, born in the U.S., went on "Aliyah" to Israel in her teens, when the state of Israel was actively encouraging Americans to settle in that land. (Jews from all over the world are still encouraged to immigrate and settle in Israel -- despite the hardship this brings to indigenous people.) Dorothy married a first generation Israeli and brought up her children there. She lives a privileged middle-class live in a safe, north Tel Aviv suburb and is active in anti-militarism groups. Nonetheless, her grandchildren will almost certainly serve in the Israeli military -- likely in the Occupied Territories where indigenous Palestinian Amina has her home.

Ironically, while Amina has ancient family roots in Palestine, she is barred from accessing much of her ancestral land and its resources which are available to Dorothy and her family. Amina's three-year-old daughter, Lena, suffers from kidney disease and requires regular dialysis.

Dorothy drives on roads closed to Palestinians, as when she escorted Amina to the hospital when Lena's kidney's failed. But, when Dorothy can't smooth Amina and Lena's way over closed roads, or through Israeli check points, or hospital security systems, Amina and Lena are on their own. Then Amina must carry the child in her arms through the check points where Israeli soldiers arbitrarily refuse to

allow her to carry the medical equipment the child requires -- or even the right to travel to a hospital at all. After such refusals, Amina has, alone, in the dark, and in the rain, carried Lena over rock-strewn mountains for emergency medical care in Palestinian hospitals. Without Dorothy, getting the child to an Israeli hospital under these conditions would be impossible. Amina said, "Please understand that most Palestinian women do not have an Israeli ally such as Dorothy to rely on for help. Most Palestinians families struggle against far greater obstacles than I do…."

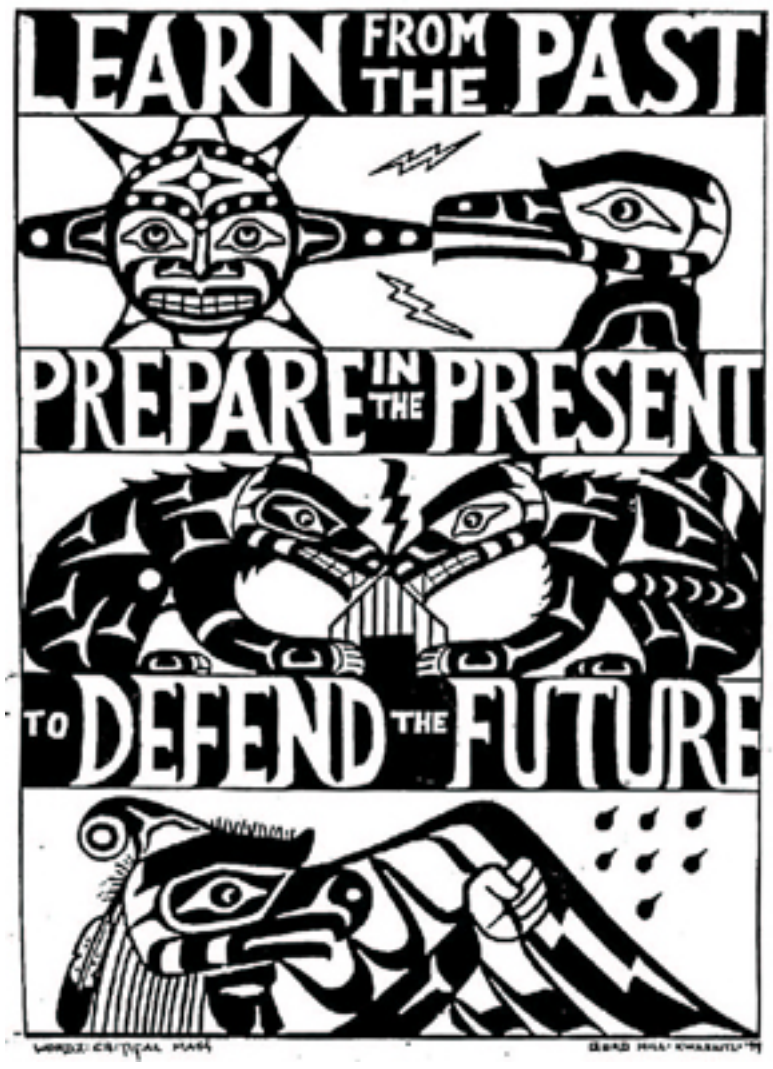
It is a tough to say whether today, women are struggling more than women did in 1908 when 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter workdays and voting rights. But, it is significant that the comparison can even be made a century later. Women – and their families – are still at risk. Today, the risk is still man-made – exploitation and war are still primary culprits – but as our climates change and our planet's health declines, wage disparities may come to be seen as small potatoes. **It is time, now, to stand up for women's rights – and for the planet's health.**

Native Land Struggles, Then and Now: As long as the Rivers flow and the Grass grows

UNA Demanding Reparations and Accountability for the Illegal Taking of the Black Hills and the Homestake Gold Mine.

Friday March 25th and Saturday March 26th as TTT was going to press, the United Native Americans held a press conference and rally protesting the theft of the sacred Black Hills and the Homestake Gold Mine by the Hearsts, one of the "robber baron" wealthy families in the US. The rally was scheduled at the Hearst Castle entrance, 750 Hearst Castle Road, San Simeon, CA 93452.

Before its closing in 2002, Homestake Gold Mine was the oldest, largest and deepest mine in the Western Hemisphere, reaching more than 8000 feet below the town of Lead. It is one main source of the Hearst family fortune. (William Randolph Hearst was immortalized in the classic film "Citizen Kane," which doesn't mention the source of the family's wealth in stolen Native land.)



On August 29th, 1970, a small group of dedicated young Indians entered Mount Rushmore, the so-called "National Shrine of Democracy," located in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The Indian people who took part in this outstanding feat, did so at the invitation of the local Indian people from Rapid City, South Dakota and the surrounding Reservations. Most of these young Indians were from different tribes and reservations who volunteered to help the Sioux in their efforts to force the Federal Government to pay for the illegal taking of their land 94 years earlier in 1877.
The re-taking started at 8:00 PM Saturday, the 29th of August 1970, when 23 young Indians, most of whom were college students, braved arrest and fines to help the Sioux regain their Sacred Black Hills. By 7:00 AM the next morning, after an all night game of hide and seek (or Rangers and Indians) most of the protesters had reached the top of the mountain, near the four faces of the Presidents, where they hung out a large flag, with the words, "SIOUX INDIAN POWER." After a Brief ceremony, they renamed the mountain "Crazy Horse Mountain" in honor of the famous war chief "Crazy Horse."

The incredible story behind this invasion and occupation started five days earlier, when the local Sioux Indian people from Rapid City, South Dakota and the surrounding reservations established picket lines at the base of the monument. After four days and nights of demonstrations the park authorities were not only still not listening, they seemed to think the whole thing was a big joke. That is until the local people invited out-of-state Indians and national Indian organizations to aid them in their heroic endeavor.

After taking the mountain and occupying it for a period of ten days or more, most of the college students and others were forced to return to school or their jobs. But by then the movement had caught on, and Indian people from across South Dakota were visiting the mountain to bring rood and water, and replacing the original invaders by two-fold. This was the first Indian uprising in South Dakota since the Sioux wiped out Custer in 1876, and suddenly young and old alike were taking new faith. Indians were fighting back. During the second day of the Occupation, the park authorities sent a message that they wanted to talk with the leaders of the group, in order to determine what they wanted and how long they intended to stay. Lehman Brightman replied, "As long as the grass grows, the water flows and the sun shines," which didn't seem to please them much.

On-line references, history and resources: http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=147763811947846
Protest The Hearst Corporation's Illegal Theft of The Black Hills & The Homestake Gold Mine http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMZuunNHzug
Poor Magazine Interviews Professor Lehman Brightman-National President of UNA http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZrdXlIJSPg
UNA Reclaims Mount Rushmore-1970 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Wd1uLgV7mc

For More Information, please contact Quanah Parker Brightman, Vice President of United Native Americans, Inc.
(510) 672-7187 or qbrightman75@hotmail.com

Native Youth Movement,
Strong Heart Warrior Society
Join Elders in Lakota Building Occupation

International Statement
Oglala Band of Native Youth Movement
Unsurrendered Lakota Nation
March 21, 2011

The Oglala Band Native Youth Movement and the Strong Heart Warrior Society are currently occupying a building in PahinSinte Lakota Nation, (so-called Porcupine, South Dakota) with Elders of the Lakota Nation.

Oglala Band of NYM was called to action after Elders began to occupy this building on March 4, 2011. Elders requested support to bring attention to the mental, physical, and spiritual abuse and the neglect of meal services that they are being excluded from.

The Elders, some 90+ years old, involved in this occupation have tried for 4 years to have their grievances heard and brought forth to the tribal governments but were completely ignored & disrespected. The Elders are the knowledge keepers of our Lakota Nation, traditionally our Elders, Grandmothers and Grandfathers were held with the upmost respect. It is now time that our Elders are heard, as Warriors we stand with them to let their voices be heard as a loud war cry and wake up our Nation.

The tribal government has applied for a vacate order, without any clear resolution to the initial grievances the Elders are addressing. In order to intimidate the Elders and Warriors in this occupation and keep the tribal corruption from being exposed one Lakota man, Dwayne Martin, has been arrested and detained on bunk charges related to his involvement in this occupation. Dwayne Martin is being held captive behind enemy lines as a political prisoner. The Elders demand his release. The BIA police are being used to also intimidate supporters, following people from the occupation, stopping and harassing them. We need support to bring a resolution to these issues and to let the Native community be aware of this occupation so that the Elders and Warriors are not isolated and criminalized.

Demand the Elders be respected and their grievances resolved. Contact John Yellow Bird Steel, OST president phone # 605-867-5821.

For more information about the occupation and to support contact:

Oglala Band Native Youth Movement
Olowan and Ryder Cell on site
(605) 454-8439
Facebook: 1st Generation AIM Babies

Calendar of Up-Coming Anti-Racist Actions:

LA Housing & Hunger Crisis Conference

Friday April 8 @7pm, Sunday April 10 @noon, So. Cal. Library, 6120 S. Vermont Ave, Los Angeles 90044
Sunday, April 9, 10 AM - 4:00 PM, Angelus Plaza auditorium, 255 S. Hill St, downtown L.A.

Confront Nazi apologist David Irving Tour in CA

Friday April 22, Sherman Oaks Saturday, April 23, Fountain Valley CA (Orange County)

Peoples Justice Conference

incorporating Jericho Amnesty Movement "**Peoples Tribunal on Political Prisoners**"
Sat-Sun., May 14-15, Los Angeles Trade Technical College, Washington and Grand

May 1st International Workers' Day

Migrant and Workers' Rights International Solidarity March

For More Information, Contact ARA-LA/PART
antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com 310-495-0299

Anti-Racist Actions Calendar July-September

Wed. July 6, 8 AM -Stop FBI repression, Drop the Charges on Carlos Montes demonstration, Alhambra

Saturday, July 16, 5 PM Jericho Amnesty Movement So Cal Library, 6120 S. Vermont Av. LA (meets 3rd Sat.)

Saturday, July 23, 10-4 Peoples Climate Justice Conference (initiated by GrassrootsKPFK) Location TBA

August 6, 1 PM Alliance of White Anti-Racists Everywhere (AWARE) (meets 1st Sat.) 4953 Franklin Ave, LA

Saturday, Aug. 13, MLK Coalition for Jobs, Justice & Peace, 6120 S. Vermont Ave. (meets 2nd Sat of month)

Aug 19-20, Washington DC National Strategy Conf. to Free Unjustly Incarcerated & Political Prisoners -check for regitration: www.theJerichoMovement.com

September 16-18 Anti-Racist Action Network Gathering, Chicago IL - check for registration: www.antiracistaction.org

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Free all Political Prisoners & POWs!

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Protest Halts Snowbowl Wastewater Pipeline
End Destruction and Desecration of San Francisco Peaks!

by Beth Lavely, protectpeaks@gmail.com

At sunrise on Thursday, June 16, more than a dozen people stopped ski area construction on the Holy San Francisco Peaks in AZ. Six individuals used various devices to lock themselves to heavy machinery and to each other inside the wastewater pipeline trench.

Kristopher Barney, Dine (Navajo), one of the six who locked himself to an excavator stated, "This is a continuation of years of prayers and resistance. It's our hope that all Indigenous Peoples, and all others, throughout the North, East, South and West come together to offer support to the San Francisco Peaks and help put a stop to Snowbowl's plan to further destroy and desecrate such a sacred, beautiful and pristine mountain!"

"What part of sacred don't they understand? Through our actions today, we say enough! The destruction and desecration has to end!" said Marlena Teresa Garcia, 16, a young Dine woman who also chose to lock down. "The Holy San Francisco Peaks is home, tradition, culture, and a sanctuary to me, and all this is being desecrated by the Arizona Snowbowl Ski Resort. So now I, as a young Dine woman, stand by Dook'o'osliid's side taking action to stop cultural genocide. I encourage all indigenous youth to stand against the desecration that is happening on the Holy San Francisco Peaks and all other sacred sites," said Garcia after being arrested and released.

A banner was hung on the side of the trench that read "Defend the Sacred." Over the half mile of open construction, the group chanted, Protect Sacred Sites, Defend Human Rights! No desecration for recreation! Stop cultural genocide! and Human health over corporate wealth! "This waste water pipeline will poison the environment and children who may eat snow made from it. Snowbowl plans to spray millions of gallons of waste water snow, which is filled with cancer causing and other harmful contaminants, as well as clear-cut over 30,000 trees. The Peaks are a pristine and beautiful place, a fragile ecosystem, and home to rare and endangered species of plants and animals," said Evan Hawbaker, another of the protesters who locked down to the excavator.

"The US Dept. of Agriculture, the US Forest Service, the City of Flagstaff Mayor and Council, and the AZ Dept. of Environmental Quality are all responsible for permitting Snowbowl to endanger public health, destroy the environment, and desecrate the Holy Peaks," said protester Nadia del Callejo. "Throughout history, acts of resistance and civil disobedience have been taken by young and old against injustices such as this. This action is not isolated but part of a continued resistance to human rights violations, to colonialism, to corporate greed, and destruction of Mother Earth," added Del Callejo.

A separate group of supporters, some wearing hazmat suits, quarantined the entrance to Snowbowl Road. By 6:00 a.m. more than 15 armed agents, including the Coconino County Sheriff's Department, City of Flagstaff Police, & the FBI stormed the mountain. At approximately 7:30 a.m., the Flagstaff Fire Department, assisted by County Sheriffs, started aggressively cutting people from the excavator. After being cut out, the two were treated by paramedics and arrested for trespassing. The police, firefighters, and paramedics then proceeded to cut two people locked in a nearby trench. Extraction took about forty minutes and the two were immediately seen by paramedics after being unlocked. One of the individuals sustained injuries to an arm from abusive force. Both were charged with trespassing, with an added charge of "contributing to the delinquency of a minor," for one of the protesters. Police proceeded to unlock the last group who was also inside the trench nearby.

"Our only offense was resistance; resistance [to] the implications [of] Snowbowl's development. The police [response] was to implement tactics of fear, essentially to continue construction as soon as possible. Our safety was second to Snowbowl's demands. I was one of the demonstrators in the trench, locked at the neck with a partner. I was not aggressive. My lock was sawed through, inches away from both of our heads, secured solely and recklessly by the hands of a deputy. During the process, we were repeatedly asked to chant to reaffirm our consciousness. The police response was hasty--it was dehumanizing," said Hailey Sherwood, one of the last protester to be cut out. Four of the protesters were taken to County Jail. The two young people were taken to Coconino County Juvenile Detention Center. FBI agents attempted to question four of those arrested.

As word spread about the demonstration to protect the Peaks, overwhelming support and solidarity poured in from throughout the community and internationally. Bail was raised shortly after the arrests. All demonstrators were released by 3:30 p.m. Three of the protesters, including Marlena Teresa Garcia, immediately filed a report for excessive use of force after being released.

http://www.indigenousaction.org/statement-from-6-protesters-arrested-for-stopping-snowbowl-pipeline/

Photos: http://www.indigenousaction.org/photos-protest-halts-snowbowl-pipeline-construction/

PART's Perspective:

End the Empire Before It Ends You!

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror*** (ARA-LA/PART)

Recent reports of the end of the world have once again proved premature. If the irrational prophecies of believers in the Bible or the end of the Mayan calendar have no foundation, however, the more serious projections of catastrophic climate change, oxygen depletion and acidification in the oceans and mass extinction cannot be dismissed, and in fact have already been shown to be underestimates.

But the grip of belief in "end times" is based less in scientific calculation and study, and more in the psychology of identification with the oppressor. Because the days of colonialism and bourgeois rule – of private expropriation of nature and socially produced wealth – are truly numbered. All those who have deeply internalized bourgeois ideology, and have identified with the imperial project, feel in their gut that their time is up.

However, the end of class society and colonialism is not the end of the world; not even "the end of history." Far from it! The contrary is true – the future of the planet depends on ending exploitation, oppression and domination. However, despite all its internal contradictions, despite the evidence in the historical record that every empire has fallen, imperialism will not topple of itself, because of the very deep grip the Empire has today on the psyche of the very people it exploits and oppresses. What's more, those living high on the hog off the pain and privation of others and the despoiling of the planet apply their wealth to the construction and control of a vast apparatus of military domination and political repression unparalleled in history.

The transformation of society, the economy, and the way we live on the earth that is necessary to sustain human life and the eco-sphere therefore requires two interpenetrating initiatives. On the psychological level, we must break our identification with or as the oppressor. Break with white supremacy, neo-colonialism, elitism, and victimhood by developing a sense of our own creative power, solidarity and human rights. Concurrently, we have to develop, actualize and exercise the power of the people through concrete acts of resistance, through discipline, accountability, training, and strategic thinking. We need to identify and take advantage of the oppressor's weaknesses and blindness, while identifying and overcoming our own. This is what is meant in "The Art of War," that if you know your enemy, and know yourself, you can fight 1000 battles and never lose.

This work, of developing the psychological and physical resources of the people, is sometimes inaccurately equated with "aboveground" and "underground" work, with mass organizing vs. militant or military action. In fact, both the physical and psychological aspects of our capacity to fight back develop simultaneously and in a complementary fashion through both open and clandestine work. The key is that all struggles must advance based on a common political understanding and standard – that we are in a life or death struggle with a merciless enemy. Without that understanding, we confine our struggles (even when using military means) to the kind of "reforms" that George Jackson defined as the new form of fascism. Without that, mass manifestations like the so-called "Arab Spring" can be manipulated by the CIA or NED into changing figureheads so as to modernize or streamline the very repressive apparatus they rose up to oppose. Without that understanding, we fall for allegedly "humanitarian interventions" like the US-NATO invasion of Libya (and thereby, Africa).

But if we do grasp that irreconcilable contradiction between the people and planet on the one hand, and the Empire on the other, we can begin to apply Malcolm's dictum to struggle ***by any means necessary*** for freedom.

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"The New Jim Crow" [Book Review]

(c) 2010 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Alexander, Michelle, ***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness***. (NY: The New Press, 2010, 290 pp.)

The book, *The New Jim Crow*, offers an unflinching look at the US addiction to imprisonment, and comes up with a startling diagnosis: American corporate greed, political opportunism and the exploitation of age old hatred and fears have congealed to create a monstrous explosion in the world's largest prison industrial complex.

Further, the author, a law professor at Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law, Michelle Alexander, digs deep into US history, and deeper still into US criminal law and practice. [She] conclude[s] that the barbarous system of repression and control known commonly as Jim Crow, had a rebirth in this era. That's why she calls it ***The New Jim Crow.***

This system of legal discrimination came into being much as the first one did. After the rout of the South by the Civil War, millions of newly freed Africans exercised these new rights under Reconstruction. Black men became senators and legislators across the South.

But this period was short lived, and as soon as possible, states passed harsh laws known as Black Codes, which denied rights and criminalized behavior by Blacks. This exposed them to the repression of southern prisons, where convicts were leased out to labor for others; it was the rebirth of slavery by other means.

This present era began at the height of the US Civil Rights Movement, when millions of Blacks fought for their rights denied for more than a century

Alexander concludes that this new system, this new coalescence of economic and political interests, targeted Blacks, especially those engaged in the drug industry, as the human capital with which to provide massive construction, huge prison staffs, and the other appendages of the apparatus of state repression.

But perhaps Alexander's most salient point is her finding that America's Black population constitutes a 'racial caste' that feeds and perpetuates mass incarceration [p. 195]:

"Indeed, every other societal structure supports this superstructure, from broken schools, to de-industrialization, to population concentration in isolated urban ghettoes, to the violence of police, and the silence of the Black Middle class."

One might argue that such a claim seems unsustainable when we see a Black president, hundreds of black political figures and those in entertainment and sports.

But Alexander explains that every system allows exceptions, for they serve to legitimize the system and mask its ugliness and its gross effects upon the majority of Blacks.

For example, while it's well known that apartheid was an overtly racist system, it allowed Asian and even African American diplomats to live and work in such a regime, by the political expediency of identifying them as "honorary whites" in their official papers.

When comparing both systems, Alexander argues that the US imprisons more Blacks both in raw number and per capita than South Africa at the height of apartheid!

The New Jim Crow – indeed!

The Power of Truth is Final -- Free Mumia!
Audio of most of Mumia's essays are at: http://www.prisonradio.org/
Mumia's got a podcast! Mumia Abu-Jamal's Radio Essays - Subscribe at the website or on iTunes and get Mumia's radio commentaries online. http://mumiapodcast.libsyn.com/
Mumia Abu-Jamal's latest book -- *Jailhouse Lawyers: Prisoners Defending Prisoners V. The USA*, featuring an introduction by Angela Y. Davis, is available from City Lights Books: http://www.citylights.com/book/?GCOI=87286100448090
Please make a contribution to help free Mumia. Donations to the grassroots work will go to both International Concerned Family And Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal and the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC). Please mail donations/ checks to: Free Mumia Abu Jamal Coalition, PO Box 16, New York, NY 10030 (payable to: FMAJC/IFCO) For more info: 215 476-8812 or 212-330-8029.

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by "Between the Bars" Prisoner Blogging Project, MIT

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Running Down the Walls 2011

by Lane Farnham, ABCF-LA

On Sunday, July 31st, 2011, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, in MacArthur Park, (starting at the south west corner), 2230 W. 6th St., Los Angeles CA 90057, the Los Angeles Anarchist Black Cross will host a 5k run/walk/jog/bike around the festive paths of MacArthur Park, Los Angeles. This run/walk/jog/bike 5K is designed to raise much-needed funds for the ABCF Warchest program, and Revolutionary Autonomous Communities (RAC). We are attempting to reach the goal of $3,500 with the run. Funds will be divided between the two programs:

ABCF Warchest:

The ABCF Warchest program is now almost 17 years old; funds for the Warchest are divided and distributed through monthly stipends to political prisoners who receive little or no financial aid. Prisoners use this money to cover the basic necessities of everyday living. These funds have been used by prisoners to pay for stamps, shoes, clothes, as well as assisting their families with what little they can.

Revolutionary Autonomous Communities (RAC):

In the aftermath of the May Day 2007 police riot targeting migrant workers who dared stand up for our human rights, members of the MacArthur Park area and others joined together to support those with no papers and those with no means. RAC-LA came forward to aid the community in self-organizing such that with the help of each other we might make an inhuman way of living a bit more bearable while at same time acquiring the means to one day transform this system into an image of our own humanity.

Solidarity Runs:

Every year, prisoners and supporters of political prisoners organize solidarity runs with Running Down the Walls. In Sync with each other, we will collectively pound the pavement with our feet and bike tires as we exhibit our strength and stamina as examples of our tireless effort to free our imprisoned comrades. In past years we had runs in: Albuquerque (NM), Arcata (CA), Ashland, (OR), Bellefonte (PA), Boston (MA), Connecticut River, Dannemora (NY), Denver, (CO), Detroit (MI), Elmore (AL), Guelph (CAN), Inez (KY), Los Angeles (CA), Marion (IL), Mexico City (MEX), New York City (NY), USP. Navosta (TX), Pelican Bay (CA), Phoenix (AZ), Sandstone (MN), Tucson (AZ), USP Tucson (AZ), and Toronto (CAN)

Raising Funds:

The Warchest program was created in November of 1994. Its purpose is to send monthly financial support to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War (PP/POWs) who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment.

Support the Struggle:

We must remember that many of those arrested in the past or present are not far from us. Many of them were and are community and labor activists, queer, and environmental activists; people who decided to speak out against various forms of oppression and paid the price of their freedom for their actions. We must remember that anyone of these people could have at one time stood beside us in a demonstration, at a speak-out, or even at an organizing meeting. At any given moment it could be us who finds ourselves in this situation, so it is imperative that we ensure that a strong enough community of support exists for these people as well as ourselves. The strength of our movement is determined by how much we support our fallen comrades. As Anarchist and former POW Ojore Lutalo says, "Any Movement that does not support its political internees, is a sham movement."

So please help us, help them! Help us help you!

We encourage people to participate in helping us raise funds for the Warchest in the following ways:

Be a runner:
We are asking people or groups who are running to collect as many sponsor for the run as possible. Remember the money received is going to help imprisoned comrades who need your help. The person who collects the most amount of funds will be given a prize for their involvement and dedication to helping our fallen comrades.

Sponsor a runner:
This can be done through a flat donation to the runner of your choice, each flyer is a sponsor sheet. We ask from those who wish not to run to actively support those who are running in hopes of collecting as much for our comrades as possible.

Donate to: The Warchest: Send funds directly to the Los Angeles ABCF (PO Box 11223, Whittier, CA 90603) or to the Philadelphia ABCF (PO Box 42129, Philadelphia, PA 19101) Make checks or money orders out only to Tim Fasnacht.

Revolutionary Autonomous Communities (RAC): http://revolutionaryautonomouscommunities.blogspot.com/

Get involved in the planning of Running Down the Walls:

We always need help with organizing the event and we encourage people to contact us if they would like to get involved. www.abcf.net/la, la@abcf.net

"International capitalism cannot be destroyed without the extremes of struggle. The entire colonial world is watching the blacks inside the U.S., wondering and waiting for us to come to our senses. Their problems and struggles with the Amerikan monster are much more difficult than they would be if we actively aided them. We are on the inside. We are the only ones (besides the very small white minority left) who can get at the monster's heart without subjecting the world to nuclear fire. We have a momentous historical role to act out if we will. The whole world for all time in the future will love us and remember us as the righteous people who made it possible for the world to live on. If we fail through fear and lack of aggressive imagination, the slaves of future will curse us, as we sometimes curse those of yesterday." *–George Jackson, Field Marshal, Black Panther Party for Self Defense.*

A Black Rider in Afrika

By Shango Abiola, Black Riders Liberation Party

"We're not Americans, we're Africans who happen to be in America. We were kidnapped and brought here against our will from Africa." -Malcolm X.

In February 2011, the Black Riders Liberation Party followed in the footsteps of our ancestors W.E.B. Dubois, Malcolm X, Eldridge Cleaver and Mzee Pete and Charlotte O'neil and more, in making the pilgrimage back to the motherland. It was due to the efforts of the Pan Afrikan Peoples Organization (PAPO), the United African Alliance Community Center (UAACC), the Black Riders Liberation Party (BRLP), my family and others that I was able to make this pilgrimage back home to Afrika.

As a Black Rider (new generation Panther) in Afrika, I had a legacy to live up to and to plant seeds to build upon. As General TACO teaches us, the BPP ideology evolved from Black Nationalist to Inter-Communalist. This led the original Black Panther Party to exist in communities around the world. Some of the places our elder comrades have been are Algeria, where Minister of Information Eldridge Cleaver escaped capture, and Tanzania, my first official stop.

As I landed at Kilimanjaro Airport I felt the power of the sun for what felt like the first time. When we got through customs, our group was greeted by two brothers saying, "Karibu nyambani"-- "Welcome home." On the road to the UAACC compound you'll see the Imbaseni village, near the city of Arusha. You'll see a multitude of shops and communally built shopping centers among the Wameru people. Sister Upesi Mtambuzi of PAPO said, "Yeah, everybody got a shop when you don't have to compete with WalMart." As we got to the UAACC compound, my senses became especially in tune with my emotions. I became excited, determined and focused at the same time. Murals of Malcolm X, Geronimo Ji Jaga (RIP, he died on June 2, 2011), and Mumia Abu-Jamal, Red Black and Green flags and Black Panthers on the walls, turned my antennas to the frequency of war. The entire time I was at the UAACC compound I felt like a student starving for knowledge. I wanted to soak up every ounce of revolutionary knowledge I could get from these OG's before I had to return to the battlefields in south central LA and West Oakland. I was focused on what assistance I could provide to comrades struggling on the continent.

The first person we met was Mzee (elder) Pete O'neil, founder of the Kansas City chapter of the Black Panther Party, who in 1970 was convicted of a trumped-up politically-motivated gun charge. This attack from the KC police chief, FBI director and racist pig Clarence Kelley was an attempt to crush the BPP.

To give some background, Clarence Kelley began his assault on the Black Liberation Movement with O'neil as a primary target. As Mzee Pete O'neil tells it, he and the Kansas City BPP were exposing Kelley as a corrupt police chief. Mzee and Kelley began exchanging words in the local paper. So as soon as Clarence takes over for Hoover as director of the FBI/COINTELPRO he goes after O'neil. Mzee was forced to jump bail and leave the US with his wife and comrade Charlotte. The first stop in Afrika was Algeria, then Tanzania. In political exile, they have remained steadfast to their beliefs as Black Revolutionaries. Their continuing work in the struggle has been documented in articles and documentaries, such as "A Panther in Africa" by Aaron Mathews.

My time at the UAACC was very inspiring. Shortly after our arrival the children of "The Leaders of Tomorrow" orphanage and school greeted us. While at the UAACC compound I learned that this program raises over 20 orphans and gives multi-level primary education to them and many members of the local community. This compound distributes clean water to the local villages. The people who serve the community live on the facility and share the responsibility and resources of all day-to-day tasks. This has helped empower many of the people whom this program has served to become doctors, teachers and more.

While volunteering in a classroom of older students ages16-22 it was empowering to see how receptive continental Afrikans were to my condemnation of fascism in America. I described our stance against it by quoting Malcolm X on the fox and the wolf. Malcolm says that the fox (liberal) is always more dangerous than the wolf (conservative) because he's more deceitful. He says you can see the wolf (conservative) coming but the fox (liberal) will fool you. "Even though you see his teeth you think he's smiling at you." Our conversations built on the neo-colonial puppets in Afrika as well as the ones in the united snakes. We dispelled the myth of meritocracy and their beliefs that all amerikkkans are rich.... They educated me on the independence movement in which Julius Nyerere, leader of the Tanganyikan African National Union, united Tanganyika with the island of Zanzibar to make Tanzania. Nyerere was committed to non-violence and the rebels of Zanzibar overthrew the Arabic sultan rulers through Armed Struggle.

We communed over music as we discussed the Black Riders' beliefs outlined in the Black Commune Program. Every Afrikan that I spoke to was in agreement about the need for a program like this in Afrika. The BRLP, through the support of UAACC, is ready to push the line! We believe Afrika's power and resources belong to ALL Black people no matter where they live in the world. In building our international strength and support for our war against kkkapitalism and white supremacy, we must build closer ties than ever before to our revolutionary family in Afrika. Which means not just go to Afrika to learn Swahili, change our names and wear dashikis… though there is nothing wrong with that. Our primary goal must be to fight from here, in solidarity with the struggles of the masses of Afrikans on Afrikan soil. We must do this while fulfilling our role of disrupting the belly of the beast. Our revolutionary theory was built from Dr. Huey Newton (Revolutionary Inter-Communalism) and expanded. It teaches us that though Amerikkka often acts tough as hell, Uncle Sam can't fight on multiple fronts at once, especially a race and class war led by oppressed Black people trapped in the U.S in unity with all Third World people. So the advancement of Afrikans' revolutionary struggle against oppression is in desperate need for us to link with our fam in the motherland. When we paralyze the beast from within the belly, they can assist us in delivering the finishing blow to kkkapitalism worldwide.

This is important because many Black people of the Diaspora have romanticized our homeland as an abundance of freedom. We sometimes believe Afrikan people haven't suffered from the psychological slavery we experience here in the belly of the beast. Unfortunately white supremacy doesn't work like that. In Afrika, people were weakened just as much as Afrikan people scattered throughout the world, or Diaspora, when the European ripped millions of people from her womb. Though I was not in a country as war-torn by European-created tribalism and imperialism as the Congo or Rwanda, it's clear to me that Tanzania is dependent on economic influence from overseas. Despite the socialist influence (Ujamaa villages), and being a country that gave comrade Pete O'neil amnesty, it's still under the attack of kkkapitalism. We can see this from the way children put their hand out when they see tourists, to the economic dependence on tourism at the national parks and safaris. The fact that tourism is made up of mostly wazungu (white folks) illustrates that our people don't have full self-determination in the Motherland either.

One of the reasons for this may be the fact that in spite of the socialistic influence outlined in the "Arusha Declaration" outlined by Mwalimu (teacher) Julius Nyerere, he didn't see the need to apply armed struggle. One of Nyerere and Tanzania's early supporters, Dr. Walter Rodney, author of "How Europe Under-Developed Africa" and key organizer of the Working Peoples Alliance of Guyana, saw this. Our ancestor states, in his 1974 paper "On Aspects of the International Class Struggle in Africa, the Caribbean and America":

"Without falling into the trap of imagining that the present states of Africa and the Caribbean will liberate the African masses from the tyranny of man and nature, it remains an open question as to how far they can be pressured to take steps which lessen the impact of imperialist exploitation and perhaps grant respite to the producers and progressive forces. Southern Africa provides excellent illustrations to this effect. Our brothers in the South are striking blows which include attacks on enemy bases in Angola, destruction of rail links in Mozambique, disruption of production through strikes in Namibia and South Africa, and intensification of offensives in Zimbabwe. Even the most reactionary African [leaders] have found it difficult to avoid responding in some positive manner; just as liberal organizations and governments of the capitalist world are now finding it prudent to join Socialists and radicals in giving international support to African liberation movements. [A] committed presence is essential to control contributions which could otherwise cease to be merely opportunist and become actively counter-revolutionary."

What Dr. Rodney is referring to is that socialism won't work without a military defensive and offensive against the imperialist forces of kkkapitalism. No liberal pseudo-independence that is usually 'granted' by legislation without armed self-defense and armed struggle will ever produce real socialism (or Revolutionary Afrikan Inter-Communalism). It's ironic that Dr. Rodney mentioned South Afrika (Azania), considering that we were filled with much hope and joy that after 20 plus years Nelson Mandela was released from prison and made President. But what some of us failed to realize is that once Brother Mandela was released, the Umkhonto we Sizwe (military/guerilla forces of the Azanian revolution) put down their guns. This helped to fizzle the intensity of the Independence movement, and our people there continue to suffer from racism, neo-colonialism and U.S. Imperialism.

We can't afford to make the same mistakes. We must find ways to support not only the propagandist of the Afrikan Diaspora but the guerrillas as well, from the Somali "Pirates" taking imperialist ships hostage, to the folks busting rifle shots at the police from high-rise apartments in West Oakland. So the Afrikans' support of our efforts in North America and our support of their efforts in Afrika is crucial because we are STILL fighting the same enemy that violently separated us in the "Maafa" (chattel slavery). And we will be fighting this war until we destroy the forces of kkkapitalism with our own minds, our own God, and our own guns.

We plan shortly to set up a "Repatriation" program. The Black Riders, unlike some organizations, believe we must make a psychological, spiritual and economic return to our motherland. Yet, for us to believe that, once we leave the U.S., white supremacy won't hunt us down and continue to enslave the world is foolish. We must not only assist in the revolutionary struggles of the Afrikans on the continent but also destroy the control center of fascism here in the U.S. This means we must learn from what happened in Liberia, where the Afrikans in America that were taken back to Afrika by the "American Colonization Society" began to oppress the native Afrikans. The Afrikans from amerikka began to oppress their own brothers, because the correct education and ideology was not implemented in the process. The Black Riders Liberation Party will not make the same mistake. We will connect our people --culturally/spiritually, economically and politically -- with Afrika not just by visiting or moving there, but by supporting and advancing the work that the community is already engaged in.

Panther Power to Elder comrades Pete & Charlotte O'neil and Everybody at the UAACC
All Power to the People in General and to All Afrikans in Particular….at Home and Abroad!
Free Mumia Abu Jamaal, Jalil Muntaqin, Sundiata Acoli, Free BRLP Comrade Noor Bey, Free General T.A.C.O. from the GPS tracking device the state strapped to his leg,
Free All Political Prisoners!
BULLETPROOF LOVE TO THE GUERRILLAS AND DEATH TO THE PIGS WORLDWIDE!

You can reach Shango Abiola at ShangoAbiola@gmail.com and the Black Riders at blackriderslp@yahoo.com
BRLP, PO Box 8297, Los Angeles CA 90008

Audio archive link on-line:
Charlotte O'neil Remembers Geronimo ji Jaga in Tanzania:
http://www.archive.org/details/CharlotteOneilSpeaksOnGeronimosLastYears

For information on imperialist land-grabs going on in Tanzania and elsewhere in Afrika today, check out:

http://media.oaklandinstitute.org/special-investigation-understanding-land-investment-deals-africa

DISCLAIMER: The name of this blotter is to be taken literally. Submissions were received via internet from anonymous antifascists, who may or may not have been speaking about themselves, or from released communiqués and report-backs. This is just to demonstrate some of the realities of everyday antifascism, and is **not to be taken as encouragement or endorsement.**

RUMORS March-June 2011

Stories of on-the-street Anti-Racist/Anti-Fascist actions in the U.S. & Canada Compiled by Hub City ARA

Chicago, IL. – March – Anti-choice leader Joe Schneider held an event in Chicago. Three of its attendees had their tires slashed by local antifa.

Chicago, IL. – April – An attempted "Hitler's Bday" party organized by area Nazi Art Jones was abruptly ended by a smoke bomb left in the bathroom of the restaurant it was being held in. There were no injuries or damage.

Pemberton, NJ. – April – The National Socialist Movement (NSM) attempted to hold their annual conference at a small hall in a small town in New Jersey. ARA found out the location, arrived on the scene to protest, and were attacked by the Nazis. The antifa (around 20) defended themselves, injuring 8 nazis and putting 4 in the hospital. 2 Antifa were arrested several hours later but it is unclear if they were even present at the melee.

Trenton, NJ. – April – The day after the melee in Pemberton the NSM held a small rally on the steps of the NJ state house in Trenton. They were opposed by at least 5 times as many protestors including a large contingent of ARA. The fascists hid carefully behind the cops that day though as they were being driven out on buses several bottles and rocks were thrown from the crowd. A short time later, several bank windows were smashed by angry protesters.

Indianapolis, IN. – April – Nazi "historian" David Irving had TWO locations for speaking events cancel on him in short order. The first, the MCL cafeteria, had its windows smashed with bricks which led the management to not only cancel that event, but discontinue their policy of allowing the racist "Hoosier Nation" group to host monthly meetings there. The backup location was also discovered and once management found out they were forced to leave. The Nazis claim they found a third location but have provided no evidence that a public meeting actually took place.

Chicago, IL. – April – Local nazi Brian Lloyd Christian was physically confronted by local antifa at the Heartland Café. Soon after he was outed at his job and home, and has since been fired.

New Brunswick, NJ – April – A handful of Antifa confronted local neo-Nazi and convicted sex offender James Wasserman outside the New Brunswick Free Public Library, whose internet he had been using to try and meet young women. Wasserman was berated and outed to everyone in the area before the Antifa left him trembling with spit running down his face. He has not been spotted at the library since.

Chicago, IL. – April – The war between scum-fuck punx The Rolling 77's (responsible for several gay-bashings, hate crimes and even a few murders) and Chi-town antifa continued with a huge brawl involving 20+ people which left the outnumbered antifa victorious and several 77's in the hospital.

The Internet – April – Anti-choicers from "The Pro-Life Action League" had their website attacked by pro-choice hackers downing the site for 16 hours.

Los Angeles, CA – April – Nazi pseudo-historian David Irving not only failed to hold a public event at his intended location in Orange County, but the Institute for Historical Review (IHR), the holocaust-denier group hosting him, moved their offices out of that location as well. Anti-fa in OC posted up outside, flyering and chasing off a local nazi.

Phoenix, AZ – April – David Irving held a small event in Phoenix under heavy police protection. A handful of antifa showed up to protest last minute.

Chicago, IL. – May – Nazi sympathizer David Irving held a small speaking event inside the swanky Drake hotel in Chicago. Chicago ARA found out the details from a snitch and coordinated a phone jam, but the management was unwilling to cancel the event and openly hostile to those who called. The following morning a bomb threat was called in to the Drake but no bomb was found.

Riverside, CA. – May – NSM regional leader Jeff Hall was shot and killed (allegedly) by his 10-year-old son. The boy was quoted in an interview with detectives as saying he was "tired of his dad hitting him and his mom."

New York, NY. – May – Local antifa converged at the annual May Day march, holding a banner that read "antifacismo es anticapitalista." They also confronted several anti-immigrant right wing counter-protestors who were present.

Denver, CO. – May – Denver antifa have been confronting police brutality and repression, culminating in a march on May 6th against police terror. At the march, police used a small firework as an excuse to attack and arrest a 20-year-old protestor, who has beaten some ludicrous charges levied against her. For more info on how to support her, visit **denverabc.wordpress.com**.

Kalispell, MT. – May – Local antifa managed to find out and release the location of nazi historian David Irving's speaking event, but management was unwilling to cancel the event.

Worcester, MA – May – North East White Pride boneheads attempted to hold a meeting in a public library. The 5 boneheads were smashed by 20 Antifa who blocked the exits. According to an anonymous report-back, "It began with shoves and kicks, then blunt weapons and chairs were used. One bonehead got a u-lock taken to his face and arm, others had chairs brought down on their skulls."

New York, NY – May – Several protests was called in response to the acquittal (despite overwhelming evidence) of two NYPD cops for the rape of a woman in her home. One ended with "hundreds facing off against the police, briefly blocking the entrance to the Brooklyn bridge, and repeatedly pushing back police attempts to corral protesters onto the sidewalk." Another involved fireworks being set off and a plate-glass window of a Chase bank being smashed.

The Internet – June – Anonymous Antifascist Hackers struck twice in a few days against over a dozen Nazi web-sites, including the web-site of North East White Pride and several forums. The hackers released personal messages and information of TONS of Nazis each time along with messages in solidarity with anarchist prisoners and antifascists.

Philadelphia, PA – June – Philadelphia ARA organized a successful benefit (an 80's dance night) and raised several hundred dollars for the legal defense of the two Antifa arrested in Pemberton.

Milwaukee, WI – June – 5 NSM Boneheads under heavy police protection protested Milwaukee (Gay) Pride. But this didn't stop a few anti-fascists from making sure they didn't go home without interruption. According to an anonymous report: "Aside from infiltrating the Milwaukee NSM through Harriet Paletti (20225 w coffee road, new berlin 53146), anti-fascists had been watching the NSM since early in the morning and had clear descriptions on all cars and attendees. The NSM's grey Astro-van was parked directly in front of their smaller red car where an NSM member inside was 'guarding' the van. After being confronted at his car he cowardly denied being a nazi and did nothing to protect the vehicle of his comrades. During the confrontation of this low life scum anti-fascists made sure to pop both of the NSMs' front tires leaving them stuck in the lot and out a few hundred bucks, not including the tow we are sure they needed."

Las Vegas, NV – June- As ***TTT*** went to press, we learned of a planned anti-immigrant rally by the NSM on June 25. Local anti-fa were planning to give them the un-welcome they deserve.

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) **WE GO WHERE THEY GO:** Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) **WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US:** This doesn't mean we never go to court, but the cops uphold white supremacy and the status quo. They attack us and everyone that resists oppression. We must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) **NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS:** In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) **We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom.** ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people.

We want a free classless society. WE INTEND TO WIN!

Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)
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NOTE: ARA's Four Points of Unity above were modified at the July conference and ratified on-line to include opposition to Islamophobia and systemic police abuse and repression.

Off the Nazis! ...but how?: Potential and Limitations of Militant Anti-Fascism

by bajin http://bringtheruckus.org/?q=node/134

The following is an account and analysis of a recent confrontation between Neo-Nazis and militant antifascists in Trenton, New Jersey. We begin with the observation of a rising tide of radical right-wing populism and its concomitant militant white nationalism in the United States. Are the existing, traditional forms of resistance growing and evolving to contend with this new threat? Are our plans and actions matching, outpacing, or falling behind the enemy's forces?

In Trenton, New Jersey, we had a showdown.

Between April 15th and 16th, the National Socialist Movement (NSM) organized a public demonstration on the New Jersey State Capitol building steps in Trenton, New Jersey. The NSM is one of the largest neo-Nazi hate groups in the nation - a group that has been picking up members in recent years. You might remember seeing them playing a major role in anti-immigrant work in Arizona.

While many attended the permitted counter-demonstration on the 16th, not everyone was content to allow the Nazis (or the cops) that kind of peace. Anti-Racist Action (ARA) responded aggressively both days. As participants in these events, and as fellow comrades operating in the spirit of always learning from our mistakes and successes, we'd like to offer our account and analysis of events.

Timeline of Events

On April 15th 2011 at about 7 p.m. sixty neo-Nazis from the NSM held a conference at the 449 Club at 6 Pemberton Ave in Pemberton, NJ. The conference was interrupted by a nearby mob of thirty people from ARA dressed mostly in black and in masks who proceeded to fight the Nazis with pipes, baseball bats and stones. After the police arrived at the scene of the violent rumble the anti-fascists quickly left the area while the Nazis were left with bashed skulls and damaged property. According to infiltrators, four of the fascists were hospitalized while others checked into different hotels out of fear of more attacks. Only one person from ARA was injured while two others were arrested, charged with third-degree inciting a riot and held at $50,000 bail each.1 The ranks of those involved in the melee against the Nazis were made up of "people of color, working class, immigrants, women, queer, transgendered, and/or people on parole" who had mobilized from all over the country.

At the public demonstration on Saturday the 16th the Nazis were well protected by hundreds of riot cops armed with rifles, shotguns and armored cars. The fascists were bused in by police to the Statehouse, which was surrounded by a tightly sealed security perimeter that was only accessible through metal detectors, police pat downs and searches. The mostly black and Latino community of Trenton showed up to protest the Nazi rally in considerable numbers alongside such groups as the New Black Panthers Party and the Progressive Labor Party, not to mention up to a dozen undercover federal agents. After 90 minutes of their rally being greatly outnumbered the NSM then left the city in the state prison buses, but not without having to change routes as a result of ARA trying to intercept them with rocks and bricks. Shortly after the Nazis escaped Trenton the militants then proceeded to smash the windows of banks in the downtown area, including Bank of America and Citizens Bank.

The combative actions of Friday and Saturday were successful in many respects. The attacks not only confronted the fascists and challenged the police state that protects them but also cast a looming shadow of doubt on the ability of liberal democracy to effectively oppose the rising tide of militant white nationalism in the United States. In comparison to the usual counter-protests that collaborate with the police and amount to little more than sign waving and shouting matches, the actions of ARA disrupted the actual logistical operations of the fascists.

Analysis of Planning and Strategy

The ARA planning sessions that took place before the actions revealed themselves to be practically irrelevant, in part due to unexpected arrests. Despite this, local crews continued with their own impromptu plans and kept a line of communication with each other. While we were victorious in many regards on Friday and Saturday, it goes without saying that serious limitations existed which must be honestly approached. We can never realize our potential without admitting failures in our overall strategy and methodology.

We are not interested in a polemic. We want to constructively push these actions in a more radical direction.

As it currently stands, those of us who identify as radical Anti-Fascists, or "Antifa," constitute an insular scene, not a social front. This is reflected in the fact that there was no strategy involving the community. The organizing and planning for the actions was entirely exclusive to ARA members, making it difficult for anyone outside of the circuit to usefully contribute or feel welcome at all. This was a major failure on our part. The planning meetings themselves entailed a contradictory balance between the fruitless planning of clandestine activities and organizing militant public protests. As a result, invited and vouched in newcomers as well as people with different levels of commitment felt very alienated and out of the loop.

While we understand the tensions inherent in organizing militant campaigns of this nature, we nonetheless take the advice of Sam Greenlee, Maxwell Stanford, Jr. and Russell Maroon Shoats in arguing for increased specialization between the aboveground and underground realms. We recognize (and support the fact) that ARA is flexible enough to contain both elements, but it must also be capable of clearly distinguishing between the two forms of work. Doing the aboveground organizing in the same space and time as the underground organizing is strategically paralyzing and decreases the effectiveness of both the more and the less militant elements from pursuing their separate goals.

It is no coincidence that black and brown community residents from Trenton on many occasions on Saturday did not distinguish between the Nazis and the white majority of anti-fascists from ARA et al. Of course, this was not monolithic; the leadership of black and Chicano activists from ARA was crucial, and several black folks even came off the sidewalk to join the so-called "black bloc." The wind, however, was not blowing in that direction. When our forces are seen by the communities we are allied with, the communities should be well-aware that we are their friends. We should have spent more time flyering, door-knocking, and having open meetings in Trenton in the months, weeks, and days leading up to the events. Not to say that no valuable work was done, but there is much evidence to suggest that it was not enough.

Without generating our own image consciously, the only image we will be leaving so far is of a gang of mostly white people wearing black having some kind of turf war with some other white people wearing black. The community did not see us as allies, and that is the worst possible remark on any social battleground for us. When we have the platform to manipulate the ideological space of our social environment, we must use it responsibly and utilize all of the best available tactics for maximum effectiveness. We should not be content to rehash old formulas because they are conveniently a part of the tradition of our work. We want to win not just the battle, but the whole war.

Yours and theirs, Comrades from the Brigade

"We are not interested in a polemic," -- but we got one anyway.

A response to Bring the Ruckus

by Jerry Bellow

I read with interest the recent article from Bring the Ruckus (or The Brigade, presumably some subset of BTR, which is itself a multi-tendency organization) concerning the recent Anti-Fascist events in and around Trenton NJ. It is clear that the author(s) or their informants were intimately in the actual actions, as I was. They seek to bring a critical perspective to what happened that weekend, and in some cases they are mostly dead on. With other conclusions, I feel as though they head in a direction that is dangerous to both the aboveground and underground portions of the movement.

BTR points out serious flaws in ARA's organizing leading up the public mobilization in Trenton. I agree that much more time and energy should have been spent out in the community, meeting people, explaining who we are, what we do, why we are there, and why it would be fun to join in.

In the organizing for ARA I have done in the past in the Midwest (mostly Ohio), a lot of time was spent on this sort of activity, both in big cities and in very small towns. The small towns were harder to do this in, because you are organizing among poor rural white folks, and there was always that fear that someone you met might be the enemy or one of their sympathizers. But, **We Go Where They Go** even if it's a space and place where their comfort level is much greater than our own.

Hub City ARA, which is the ARA Network chapter local to Trenton, didn't do enough of this base-building type work in a place where one could be 100% certain that the fascists had no sympathizers one might encounter unknowingly by chance. But each ARA chapter is autonomous, each has to organize permanently in its own community, and each has to deal with the political repercussions of its actions in the long term. How Hub City chose to turn a Neo-Nazi mobilization to its own local advantage is Hub City's choice, not the choice of the network as a whole.

To Hub City's credit, their local organizing leading up to the event centered on exposing the locations and (sex) crimes of local NSM members. Despite the overall lack of base building, the NSM now has zero chance of gaining a foothold or building a base in Trenton. We Go Where They Go, and Hub City ARA rooted them out and exposed them.

The other point BTR raises in their article, and the one I find problematic is this one: *"Doing the aboveground organizing in the same space and time as the underground organizing is strategically paralyzing and decreases the effectiveness of both the more and the less militant elements from pursuing their separate goals."*

The conceptualization therein is a straw man. "More Militant" and "Less Militant" elements within ARA and within the anti-fascist movement do not have separate goals. They have one goal and that is to defeat and dismantle fascist organizations. "Elements" (or that is to say, people) are not more or less militant, tactics are more or less militant. People, as individuals, have more or less military capability.

The formulation that BTR suggests we use essentially places the more militarily capable people within the organization in a separate political and organizing space from the more aboveground and "less militant" (although it takes a lot of work to carry out militant action in broad daylight downtown) people. This is an error.

The clandestine operation, the sudden strike by night, the essentially more illegal actions with high potential for physical violence (which is what I think BTR means by "more militant") are tactics. These tactics must be employed from time to time, and the capability to employ these tactics must be built, honed and maintained for the sake of both effectiveness and credibility. Clandestine activity however, is still only a tactical adjunct to the core work of Anti-fascism, which is mass organizing.

Separating these elements leads to disaster in the long term. Time and again, revolutionary organizations have separated their clandestine elements from their mass elements, or failed to build mass elements at all. This leads to a focus and fetishizing of clandestine activity at the expense mass organizing and mass militancy.

As the clandestine political operator slides further down this road she or he becomes more and more separated from the masses, from dialogue with mass political organizing, with the realities of day to day life. When the Red Army Faction disbanded itself in 1998, one of the key self-criticisms they cited was a failure to engage in any above-ground work. They wrote:

"It Was A Strategic Mistake Not To Build Up A Political-Social Organization Alongside The Illegal, Armed Organization

"...In no phase of our [RAF's] history was an outreaching, political organization realized in addition to the political-military struggle. The concept of the RAF knew only the armed struggle, with a focus on the political-military attack."

In light of this, and the experiences of many clandestine underground organizations, the fault of ARA in Trenton was not the failure to separate the clandestine from public, but the failure to better coordinate the two. ARA and other antifa failed to communicate WHY we chose the tactic of wearing black, WHAT the relationship of this or that corporate institution is to fascism or WHY some of us chose to target them along with the open nazis. We failed to communicate why the population of Trenton should support us, why they should join us in these actions.

Separation would not have helped with that. Searching for new methods of communication, integration and inclusion are the way forward.

The Call for all Prisoners in Security Housing Units (SHUs)

By Mutope Duguma (s/n James Crawford)

This is a call for all prisoners in Security Housing Units (SHUs), Administrative Segregation (Ad-Seg), and General Populations (GP), as well as the free oppressed and non-oppressed people to support the indefinite July 1st 2011 *peaceful Hunger Strike* in protest of the violation of our civil/human rights, here at Pelican Bay State Prison Security Housing Unit (PBSP-SHU), short corridor D1 through D4 and its overflow D5 through D10.

It should be clear to everyone that none of the hunger strike participants want to die, but due to our circumstances, whereas that state of California has sentenced all of us on Indeterminate SHU program to a "civil death" merely on the word of a prison informer (snitch).

The purpose of the Hunger Strike is to combat both the Ad-Seg/SHU psychological and physical torture, as well as the justifications used to support treatment of the type that lends to prisoners being subjected to a civil death. Those subjected to indeterminate SHU programs are neglected and deprived of the basic human necessities while withering away in a very isolated and hostile environment.

Prison officials have utilized the assassination of prisoners' character to each other as well as the general public in order to justify their inhumane treatment of prisoners. The "code of silence" used by guards allows them the freedom to use everything at their disposal in order to break those prisoners who prison officials and correctional officers (C/Os) believe cannot be broken. It is this mentality that set in motion the establishing of the short corridor, D1 through D4 and its D5 though D10 overflow. This mentality has created the current atmosphere in which C/Os and prison officials agreed upon a plan to break indeterminate SHU prisoners. This protracted attack on SHU prisoners cuts across every aspect of the prison's function: Food, mail, visiting, medical, yard, hot/cold temperatures, privileges (canteen, packages, property, etc.), isolation, cell searches, family/friends, and socio-culture, economic, and political deprivation. This is nothing short of the psychological/physical torture of SHU/Ad-Seg prisoners. It takes place day in and day out, without a break or rest.

The prison's gang intelligence unit was extremely angered at the fact that prisoners who had been held in SHU under inhuman conditions for anywhere from ten (10) to forty (40) years had not been broken. So the gang intelligence unit created the "short corridor" and intensified the pressure of their attacks on the prisoners housed there. The object was to use blanket pressure to encourage these particular isolated prisoners to debrief (i.e. snitch in order to be released from SHU).

The C/Os and administrative officials are all in agreement and all do their part in depriving short corridor prisoners and its overflow of their basic civil/human rights. None of the deliberate attacks are a figment of anyone's imagination. These continuous attacks are carried out against prisoners to a science by all of them. They are deliberate and conscious acts against essentially defenseless prisoners.

It is these ongoing attacks that have led to the short corridor and overflow SHU prisoners to organize ourselves themselves around an indefinite Hunger Strike in an effort to combat the dehumanizing treatment we prisoners of all races are subjected to on a daily basis. Therefore, on July 1, 2011, we ask that all prisoners throughout the State of California who have been suffering injustices in General Population, Administrative Segregation and solitary confinement, etc. to join in our peaceful strike to put a stop to the blatant violations of prisoners' civil/human rights. As you know, prison gang investigators have used threats of validation and other means to get prisoners to engage in a protracted war against each other in order to serve their narrow interests. If you cannot participate in the Hunger Strike then support it in principle by not eating for the first 24 hours. I say that those of you who carry yourselves as principled human beings, no matter your housing status, must fight to right this and other egregious wrongs. Although it is "us" today (united New Afrikans, Whites, Northern and Southern Mexicans, and others) it will be you all tomorrow. It is in your interests to peacefully support us in this protest today, and to beware of agitators, provocateurs, and obstructionists, because they are the ones who put ninety percent of us back here because they could not remain principled even within themselves.

The following demands are all similar to what is allowed in other super max prisons (e.g. federal Florence, Colorado, Ohio and Indiana State Penitentiaries). The claim by CDCR and PBSP that implementing the practices of the federal prison system or that of other states would be a threat to safety and security are exaggerations.

The names of representatives of all major races listed as co-signers. The prisoners say they are "All races Whites; New Afrikans; Southern Mexs., and Northern Mexs."
D. Troxell B-76578; T. Ashker C-58191; S.N. Jamaa--Dewberry C-35671; A. Castellanos C-17275; G. Franco, D-46556.

DEMANDS OF THE PBSP SHU D-CORRIDOR HUNGER STRIKE

Attention: Beginning July 1, 2011, several inmates housed indefinitely in PBSP-SHU D-Facility, Corridor Isolation, will begin an indefinite hunger strike in order to draw attention to, and to peacefully protest, 25 years of torture via CDCR's arbitrary, illegal, and progressively-more-punitive policies and practices, as summarized in the accompanying "Formal Complaint." PBSP-SHU, D-Facility Corridor inmates' hunger strike protest is to continue indefinitely until the following changes are made:

OUR FIVE CORE DEMANDS:

1. **Individual Accountability** - This is in response to PBSP's application of "group punishment" as a means to address individual inmates rule violations. This includes the administration's abusive use of a "safety and concern" pretext to justify what are unnecessary punitive acts. This policy has been applied in the context of justifying indefinite SHU status, and progressively restricting our programming and privileges.

2. **Abolish the Debriefing Policy, and Modify Active/Inactive Gang Status Criteria** - The debriefing policy is illegal and redundant, as pointed out in the Formal Complaint [IV-A, p. 7]. The Active/Inactive gang status criteria must be modified in order to comply with state law and applicable CDC-R rules and regulations [eg, see Formal Complaint, p. 7, IV-B] as follows:

A) Cease the use of innocuous association to deny inactive status,

B) Cease the use of informant/debriefer allegations of illegal gang activity to deny inactive status, unless such allegations are also supported by factual corroborating evidence, in which case CDCR-PBSP staff shall and must follow the regulations by issuing a rule violation report and affording the inmate his due process required by law.

3. **Comply with US Commission 2006 Recommendations Regarding an End to Long-Term Solitary Confinement** - CDCR shall implement the findings and recommendations of the US commission on safety and abuse in America's prisons final 2006 report regarding CDCR SHU facilities as follows:

A) **End Conditions of Isolation** (p. 14) Ensure that prisoners in SHU and Ad-Seg (Administrative Segregation) have regular meaningful contact and freedom from extreme physical deprivations that are known to cause lasting harm. (pp. 52-57)

B) **Make isoaltion a Last Resort** (p. 14). Create a more productive form of confinement in the areas of allowing inmates in SHU and Ad-Seg [Administrative Segregation] the opportunity to engage in meaningful self-help treatment, work, education, religious, and other productive activities relating to having a sense of being a part of the community.

C) **End Long-term Solitary Confinement.** Release inmates to general prison population who have been warehoused indefinitely in SHU for the last 10 to 40 years (and counting).

D) **Provide SHU Inmates Immediate Meaningful Access to**:

i) adequate natural sunlight

ii) quality health care and treatment, including the mandate of transferring all PBSP-SHU inmates with chronic health care problems to the New Folsom Medical SHU facility.

4. **Provide Adequate Food** - cease the practice of denying adequate food, provide wholesome nutritional meals including special diet meals, and allow inmates to purchase additional vitamin supplements.

A) PBSP staff must cease their use of food as a tool to punish SHU inmates.

B) Provide a sergeant/lieutenant to independently observe the serving of each meal, and ensure each tray has the complete issue of food on it.

C) Feed inmates who serve SHU meals with meals separate from pans of food sent from kitchen for SHU meals.

5. **Expand and Provide Constructive Programming and Privileges for Indefinite SHU Status Inmates**. Examples include:

A) Expand visiting regarding amount of time and adding one day per week.

B) Allow one photo per year.

C) Allow a weekly phone call.

D) Allow Two (2) annual packages per year; 30-lb. based on net weight and not packaging and box wt.

E) Expand canteen and package items allowed. Allow us to have the items in their original packaging [the cost for cosmetics, stationary, envelopes, should not count towards the max draw limit]

F) More TV channels.

G) Allow TV/Radio combinations, or TV and small battery operated radio

H) Allow Hobby Craft Items - paper, colored pens, small pieces of colored pencil, watercolors, chalk etc

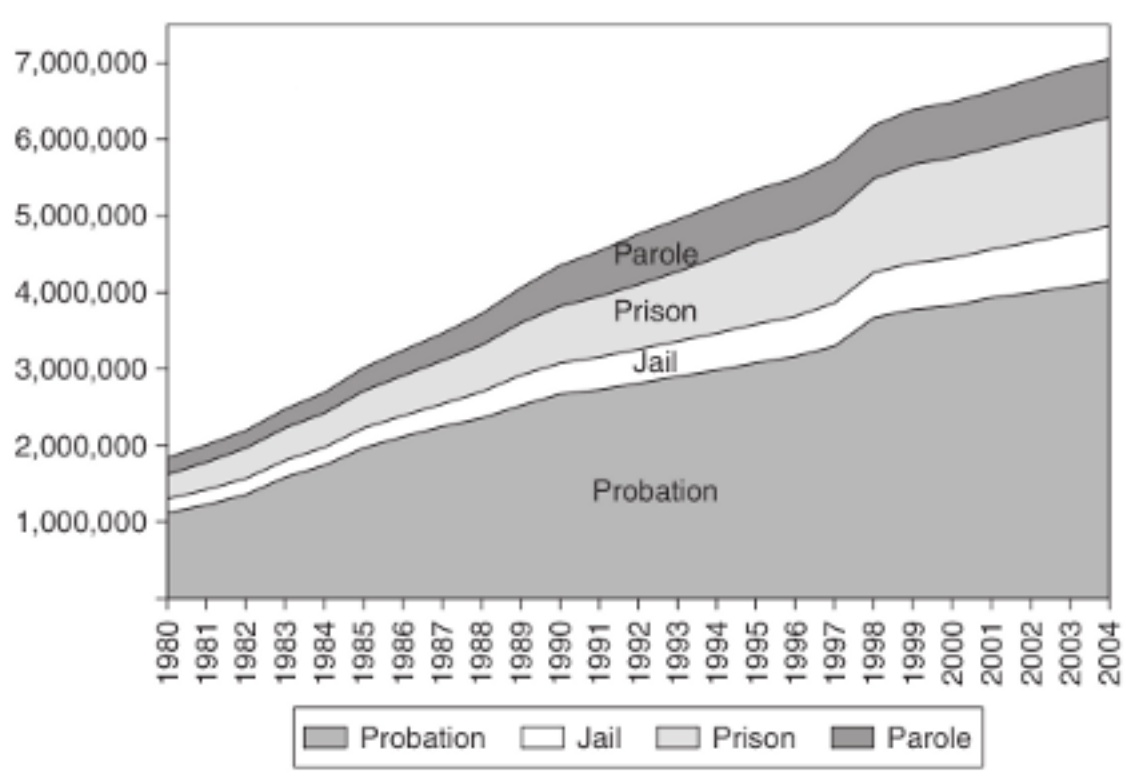
I) Allow sweat suits and watch caps.

J) Allow wall calendars.

K) Install pull-up/dip bars on SHU yards.

L) Allow correspondence courses that require proctored exams.

FIGURE 1
CORRECTIONAL POPULATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1980-2004



Anti-Racist Action-LA calls for an outside solidarity fast to support PBSP-SHU Hunger-Strikers! Call 310-495-0299. Sign the on-line support petition: http://www.change.org/petitions/support-prisoners-on-hunger-strike-at-pelican-bay-state-prison

ANONYMOUS DECLARATION OF FREEDOM

Uploaded by freedominfonetwork on Jan 13, 2011

Since its inception, the internet has provided new ways for people all over the world to exercise the rights of free speech, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly. These rights are not simply the benefits of a free society--they are the very means of preserving that society's freedom. The recent increase in government interference with these freedoms coincides with the failure of the corporate media to fulfill their vital role in checking the abuse of authority. Censorship and journalistic abdication have left citizens unaware and unable to hold their governments accountable.

WikiLeaks has moved to fill the void left by traditional news media, providing the necessary information for citizens to hold their governments to account. Yet it has not been granted the legal protections generally afforded to journalists. Instead, the organization has been vilified and monetary support has been blocked by governments and private corporations. The vitriol aimed at WikiLeaks demonstrates an unsettling disregard for the fundamental freedom to exchange information and express ideas. Members of a free society must not allow information to be suppressed simply because it inconveniences those in power. We share the responsibility to defend vital liberties. The time to act is now.

We are Anonymous, a leaderless movement that has worked tirelessly to oppose all forms of Internet censorship worldwide, from DMCA abuses to government mandated content filters. Our initiatives include supporting dissenting groups in Iran, Zimbabwe and Tunisia, as well as waging the highly visible information battle against the Church of Scientology. We are now prepared to take the fight to the world stage. Join us on January 15th for the first in a series of global protests in defense of WikiLeaks and freedom of expression. Stand with us to defend your freedoms.

Visit http://whyweprotest.net to find out how you can participate.

We Are Anonymous
And So Are You

Anonymous Message to NATO

Greetings, members of NATO. We are Anonymous. In a recent publication, you have singled out Anonymous as a threat to "government and the people." You have also alleged that secrecy is a 'necessary evil' and that transparency is not always the right way forward.

Anonymous would like to remind you that the government and the people are, contrary to the supposed foundations of "democracy", distinct entities with often conflicting goals and desires. It is Anonymous' position that when there is a conflict of interest between the government and the people, it is the people's will which must take priority. The only threat transparency poses to government is to threaten government's ability to act in a manner which the people would disagree with, without having to face democratic consequences and accountability for such behaviour. Your own report cites a perfect example of this, the Anonymous attack on HBGary.
Whether HBGary were acting in the cause of security or military gain is irrelevant - their actions were illegal and morally reprehensible. Anonymous does not accept that the government and/or the military has the right to be above the law and to use the phoney cliche of "national security" to justify illegal and deceptive activities. If the government must break the rules, they must also be willing to accept the democratic consequences of this at the ballot box.We do not accept the current status quo whereby a government can tell one story to the people and another in private. Dishonesty and secrecy totally undermine the concept of self rule. How can the people judge for whom to vote unless they are fully aware of what policies said politicians are actually pursuing?

When a government is elected, it is said to "represent" the nation it governs. This essentially means that the actions of a government are not the actions of the people in government, but are actions taken on behalf of every citizen in that country. It is unacceptable to have a situation in which the people are, in many cases, totally and utterly unaware of what is being said and done on their behalf - behind closed doors.

Anonymous and WikiLeaks are distinct entities. The actions of Anonymous were not aided or even requested by WikiLeaks. However, Anonymous and WikiLeaks do share one common attribute: They are no threat to any organization - unless that organization is doing something wrong and attempting to get away with it.

We do not wish to threaten anybody's way of life. We do not wish to dictate anything to anybody. We do not wish to terrorize any nation.

We merely wish to remove power from vested interests and return it to the people - who, in a democracy, it should never have been taken from in the first place.
The government makes the law. This does not give them the right to break it. If the government was doing nothing underhand or illegal, there would be nothing "embarassing" about Wikileaks revelations, nor would there have been any scandal emanating from HBGary. The resulting scandals were not a result of Anonymous' or Wikileaks' revelations, they were the result of the CONTENT of those revelations. And responsibility for that content can be laid solely at the doorstep of policymakers who, like any corrupt entity, naively believed that they were above the law and that they would not be caught.

A lot of government and corporate comment has been dedicated to "how we can avoid a similar leak in the future". Such advice ranges from better security, to lower levels of clearance, from harsher penalties for whistleblowers, to censorship of the press.

Our message is simple: Do not lie to the people and you won't have to worry about your lies being exposed. Do not make corrupt deals and you won't have to worry about your corruption being laid bare. Do not break the rules and you won't have to worry about getting in trouble for it.

Do not attempt to repair your two faces by concealing one of them. Instead, try having only one face - an honest, open and democratic one.

You know you do not fear us because we are a threat to society. You fear us because we are a threat to the established hierarchy. Anonymous has proven over the last several years that a hierarchy is not necessary in order to achieve great progress - perhaps what you truly fear in us, is the realization of your own irrelevance in an age which has outgrown its reliance on you. Your true terror is not in a collective of activists, but in the fact that you and everything you stand for have, by the changing tides and the advancement of technology, are now surplus to requirements.

ANONYMOUS DECLARATION OF WAR

http://www.whatis-theplan.org

Become a member and join us as we initiate a movement for real change.

"The Plan" 1 year. 3 phases. A world of change.

Share this message with everyone you can.

PHASE 1: Better yourself. Spread the message. Be the message.

*Educate yourself on the depths of the system, the functions put it place to inhibit true freedom as well as the mechanisms within the system that motivate the masses to subconsciously accept giving up those freedoms. The structures within the system that promote division within the people of the countries of this world and the injustices that are placed upon the people.

*Spread the message. Share this video and the website with everyone you can. Make your own videos, songs, art, graffiti etc... spreading the word that we are here, the movement is taking hold. Expect us.

*Learn ways that will allow you to break free from the system. Start small and implement them in your daily lives. This will be implemented as a focus of Phase 2 as well, escalating what you have learned.

*ANON hackers - begin supporting the movement. This is a calling to all of you for the aid of this movement. Low-priority targets are your engagement. Assist with the movement and spread the message of "The Plan".

The resistance is here.
Expect us.

Finally, do not make the mistake of challenging Anonymous. Do not make the mistake of believing you can behead a headless snake. If you slice off one head of Hydra, ten more heads will grow in its place. If you cut down one Anon, ten more will join us purely out of anger at your trampling of dissent.

Your only chance of defeating the movement which binds all of us is to accept it. This is no longer your world. It is our world - the people's world.

We are Anonymous.
We are legion.
We do not forgive.
We do not forget.

Expect us...

Anonymous Anti-Fascist Hackers Destroy White Supremacist Websites

Just days after Anonymous Anti-Fascists attacked and defaced nearly a dozen white supremacist websites and online stores, another two neo-nazi websites and forums were hit at wpww-thefolk.com and prideandhonor.net. Yet again, a database of private messages, passwords, addresses and email correspondence has been released including dox on the webmasters James Milne and Alexander Zoller. We bet the supporters of Jim's failed electoral campaign for city council as well as his Tea Party friends at GiveMeLiberty.org will be surprised of his neo-nazi activities. We did this for the June 11 international day of solidarity with long-term anarchist prisoners as well as with all those fighting racist oppression whether it be at the hands of the government, police, nazis, minuteklan, or other right-wing extremists.

James Milnes, a nazi skinhead in Sioux Falls SD, runs several white supremacist websites and has worked for Aryan Nations, Knights of the Nordic Order, Pride and Honor, and several Tea Party, 912 and militia groups. So we owned his websites, personal gmail and hotmail account, godaddy.com account, facebook, paypal, campaignforliberty.com account, meetup.com account, and more. His private emails which date back to 2006 are especially embarassing including nude pictures and cyber sex videos with him and his current wife Kristy Howe (who attends National Socialist Movement rallies), custody disputes over his daughter Brianna with his ex-wife, his tax forms, resume, and bitter arguments between former Aryan Nations members and current leader August Kriess III (who after losing his legs is now also facing prison time for fraud).

No doubt Jim will be absolutely devestated when he realizes that all his websites destroyed and that his racist activities and humiliating personal information were exposed for the world to see. this is what happens when you attempt to spread racist hatred: you'll be targeted and destroyed.

"NEWP and everything connected with them, the store, AVM, OWP even his paypal were hacked yesterday Last night. They have everyone's name, passwords and personal information and it is on the net for download I got this early this morning. Do what you gotta do folks, this is bullshit and you know how much we can count on the cops to do anything about it, seems to be the same people involved in the assault at the library where they are bragging about hitting people with padlocks and chairs. Why must the world just keep pissing me off more every day, is this a test or something?"

If you missed the #TotalDestroyThursday newp.org / local1488.com hack:
http://www.zone-h.org/mirror/id/14178785

FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS, PRISONS, AND RACIST HATRED - SMASH WHITE SUPREMACY!
We are Anonymous. We are Legion. We do not forgive. We do not forget. Expect us.
#opblitzkrieg #anonops #lulzsec #operationpayback #anonymousanarchist #anokchan

SAMPLE FILE ON NAZI JAMES MILNE:
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Passwords: skippy79, Skippy79, nopchereWN14
Wife: Kristin Milne (Howe), works at Sanford Hospital, 605-328-2000, ubasti4@yahoo.com
College: Enrolled at Southeast Tech
GoDaddy.com account: 36546256 Pass: nopchereWN14
His CampaignForLiberty.com account: u: red_haint p: skippy79
http://www.tnchildsupportpayment.com Username: J_Milne Password: skippy79!User: membershipdirector@aryan-nations.org Password: 14hundredand44
FTP address: ftp.wpww-thefolk.com username: wpwwthef FTP password: skippy79
His failed attempt to run for Sioux Falls City Council Central District:http://www.southdacola.com/blog/2010/01/sf-central-district-council-candidate-james-milnes-campaign-platform/

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Excerpts from: Whitey on the Moon

by Dina Omar

http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/2469/whitey-on-the-moon

I've been asked my opinion on the "social justice" protests in Israel. I will use the words of two writers, Mahmoud Darwish and Gil Scott-Heron, to express why many are uninspired by the "14 July movement." Scott-Heron sang ***Whitey on the Moon*** responding to Neil Armstrong's 1970 trip to the moon, anchoring the "advances" of the space program in populations at whose expense such feats were accomplished. "Whitey" refers to an institution that organized society to serve the interests of one racial group at the expense of another. Scott-Heron sang: "I can't pay no doctor bills./ (but Whitey's on the moon)/ Ten years from now I'll be payin' still/ While Whitey's on the moon./ … Taxes take my whole damn check,/ The junkies make me a nervous wreck,/ The price of food is goin' up,/ An' as if all that crap wasn't enough,/ A rat done bit my sister Nell./ (with Whitey on the moon)." Scott-Heron scoffs at the US for spending billions on space while ignoring social issues—particularly those facing impoverished communities of color. He demonstrates how ridiculous the technological advancements are by tethering them to racial inequality. The intersection is located where you take my tax dollars to achieve something, and I give you my tax dollars and lose something.

A similar relationship explains why I roll my eyes at the Israeli 14 July Movement. In *Memory for Forgetfulness*, Darwish explains how Palestinian refusal to celebrate Israeli 'liberals' isn't disdain, but pain and loss. His response to protests in Tel Aviv 30 years ago can be applied to the protests today. He chronicles the thoughts of a Palestinian refugee during the '82 Israeli siege of Beirut, and his reaction to Israeli protests. He cuts through their proclaimed intention and reveals their odious consequences. The same observation must be made about the 14 July protests: they occur at the expense of Palestinians. To think the Tel Aviv protests are divorced from the question of Palestine is pathological. It's based in privilege. Darwish and Scott-Heron wrote about how privilege makes people delusional. Scott-Heron's poem works to measure the disconnect between Palestinian reality and 14 July slogans. The correlation between space and racism in the US is comparable to the asymmetry between Israelis and Palestinians.

Palestine has 6,000,000 refugees, but Israelis want affordable housing. Palestinians have 16% unemployment rate in the West Bank and 40+% in Gaza, but Israelis rally for jobs to remedy their 5% unemployment. There are 5000 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails, but protesters demand the release of Gilad Shalit [a captured Israeli soldier]. Hebrew Univ. confiscated Palestinian lands, uprooting more than 250 Palestinians, but Israeli marchers hold posters that say, "Arabs out of Jaffa, more room for artists and students." As protesters demand 'social justice,' they remain silent about Israel's treatment of the Palestinians.

It's not that critics don't want Israeli Jews to have adequate, affordable housing. However, Palestinians don't appreciate being uprooted to make room for such homes. 63 years after over 700,000 Palestinians were uprooted, 200,000 Israelis walk out of their homes to sleep in tents. ***Ha'aretz*** journalist Ari Shavit was quoted by ***Time***, "There was a time people felt guilty about the Tel Aviv bubble. Then it turned out the bubble was pretty strong." Tent City is in the bubble, and that bubble might as well be on the moon. Israelis gather to sleep in tents on the streets of affluent Rothschild Boulevard. Juxtapose that image with the tents of the 700,000 Palestinians forcibly removed from their homes in '48 or the tents in Jabalya Refugee Camp after the Israeli attack on Gaza—the inequality is clear.

Israeli protesters describe their tent city as "a creative space," where Israelis are fostering "a real community." How could Palestinians rejoice at the protests when "Tel Aviv is Jewish" is one of the mantras shouted or protesters assert the protests aren't political but social? Palestinians understand these protests as an appropriation of the Palestinian position, land, and the language surrounding the Arab spring. Unlike Israel's protests, the Arab spring is a political struggle for power—to take power from the ruling elite and government. Netanyahu was elected, and his high approval ratings are due to his position on defense and policy matters. It's ironic that as hundreds of thousands protest in the street, air strikes are launched against Gaza. Israel's middle class want improved social services while supporting an occupation that costs more than $800,000,000 a year. An apartheid state cannot sustain itself. The ostracized tent #1948 is the only glimmer of social justice in the tent cities. Right-wing Israelis assaulted people (Israelis and Palestinians) in the tent and tore down the Palestinian flag, but it remains one of the only comprehensible messages from the 14 July movement. Its message is clear—social justice should be for all. The existence of tent #1948 is subverting the racist undertones of the Israeli protests; I pray more people join it.

If Israelis think they can achieve "social justice" while remaining silent about injustices against Palestinians—they will continue to be perceived as "Whitey on Moon."

Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

TURNING THE TIDE

Attica is All of Us! Abolish the Prison-Industrial Complex!

General T.A.C.O. of the New Generation Black Panthers:

BLACK RIDERS LIBERATION PARTY

"ALL BLOODS & CRIPS MUST UNITE
and Protect Black People
from our real racist enemies!"

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PART's Perspective:

The French Have a Word For It: Plus Royaliste Que Le Roi

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles, People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***

More monarchist than the monarch.

This French proverb expresses the irrationality of a subject so loyal to a ruler, or a principle, that his zeal to uphold or defend it exceeds that of the ruler who stands to benefit the most. In the alternate form, "Plus Catholique que le Pape," more Catholic than the Pope, it tends to be used to express a criticism of hypocritical and pretentious false piety. In either form, and with both nuances of meaning, it well applies to the shepherded public opinion in the U.S., which the evidence of our senses now clearly demonstrates is more Euro-centric than the Europeans and more Zionist than the Israelis.

While Greek, French, British and Spanish youth, migrants and working people are smashing massively in the streets against austerity, US workers and students seem content to devote ourselves to "rebuilding the dream." In Israel, settler-colonial Israeli Jews march by hundreds of thousands in their capital, Tel Aviv, even if it's only to complain about the neo-liberal domestic economic policies of their government. But here in the US, any inkling of deviance from 100% pro-Israel politics is enough to get the former Democratic Mayor of New York to endorse the Republican in a special Congressional election.

The world is in flames across Africa, Asia, and Europe, throughout Latin America, even in the US Caribbean colony of Puerto Rico, yet here things can hardly be said to be smoldering. A single spark can start a prairie fire, but sparks will not catch if the tinder is wet.

Identification with the Empire and the oppressor throttles revolutionary class consciousness and independence among the oppressed and exploited. It promotes class collaboration, neo-colonialism, a defense of privilege or victimhood.

Labor and the left made much of the outpouring of protest in Madison, WI, and still speak of it as the equivalent of Tahrir Square in Cairo. Yet public workers and their supporters were quickly diverted into putting their energy into elections that ended up maintaining the status quo in the legislature and the courts.

The Democrats they backed even stepped away from support of collective bargaining rights as a campaign issue, as minimal a demand as that was.

Rallies that supported the Madison WI protesters raised no demands about ending the US wars around the globe, or the war on the poor, youth of color, or migrants inside the US. Meanwhile, organized labor and most of the left ignored the strikes that ***were*** a beacon of inspiration inside this country.

The AFL-CIO had nothing to say about the prisoners' work strike in Georgia, or the hunger strike initiated by the Pelican Bay Security Housing Unit prisoners, that spread to thousands of prisoners around CA and across the U.S.

Instead, organized labor and the Dems they back hitch their wagon to uniformed public workers like the cops and prison guards. So it should be no surprise that workers and the so-called middle class vote "against their own interests," whether they're voting for Democrats or Republicans. Neither party represents the true interests of colonized or exploited people and never will.

The French also say, "*Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*" – the more things change, the more they are the same thing. The morphing of Dubya into Obama has brought change, indeed: more deportations, more surveillance, more war, more transfer of wealth to the wealthiest, more privatization of schools, prisons, and even covert operations, more austerity in the name of stimulus, more capability to invade Africa. But we cannot descend into despair.

What ***will*** make a real change? It must come, and in fact is coming, from below and from outside the corporate dominated political system. Alliance building and solidarity among the colonized, the "wretched of the earth." Honest and sincere folk from other classes and sectors, such as those protesting in DC on the 10th anniversary of the war in Afghanistan or against the Tar Sands pipeline, would do well to heed the lesson that Martin Luther King Jr. taught more than 40 years ago.

He said, unless we make fundamental changes in this system, a revolution of values he called it, we will be forming "clergy and laity concerned" about wars into the indefinite future.

Like Malcolm X before him, King began to develop an internationalist, anti-imperialist class consciousness that grew out of the centrality of the Black freedom struggle. Both understood the need for loving self-criticism as well as uncompromising direct action and challenge to white supremacy.

King spent the last year of his life, from his speech opposing US aggression in Viet Nam to his death in Memphis while mobilizing to support the sanitation workers, building for a ***Poor People's*** March on Washington, working with Black, Native, Mexicano, Asian and white poor people.

Now, as then, it is the anti-colonial, anti-capitalist struggles of the indigenous, the Africans and Asians, that will help dry out the damp tinder and stoke the fires of revolutionary anti-imperialist class consciousness and push us all forward.

Twenty-fifth Anniversary of People Against Racist Terror-Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles (ARA-LA/PART) Coming Up!

Next year, 2012, marks the 25th anniversary of ***People Against Racist Terror***, now ***Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles*** (ARA-LA/PART), and "***Turning the Tide***" begins its 25th year of publication. PART was launched in 1987, in response to a scheduled appearance in the L.A. area of convicted Birmingham church bomber J.B. Stoner. Stoner was a former Klansman and fugitive who, having served a prison sentence, was on a national tour for his so-called Crusade Against Corruption, seeking to attract white youth involved in the then-new phenomenon of nazi-oriented boneheads.

As a former member of the LA chapter of the ***John Brown Anti-Klan Committee***, which had folded when most of the other members left Los Angeles, I had continued to do opposition research on white power groups in southern CA, and caught wind of Stoner's plans. I blew the whistle on the activities, scheduled for the Glendale Public Library and a nearby Holiday Inn, and with a few friends, launched ***People Against Racist Terror*** as a vehicle for organizing a counter-protest. Our slogan was "Be PART of the Solution!"

The exposure caused the library to cancel (I believe they shut down for 'security reasons'). But several thousand people turned out in response to the call to oppose Stoner and the boneheads, many local residents of Glendale and lookey-loos, but many others from around the L.A. basin who wanted to express their opposition. We marched over to the nearby hotel where Stoner had booked a room and still planned to proceed. Several nazi-skins on their way in were physically prevented from entering by angry protesters, and sent packing. The Glendale PD declared the protest an illegal assembly, closed several off-ramps on the Glendale Freeway to prevent further protesters from arriving on the scene, and actually called out a water cannon (shades of Stoner's Klan background) to disperse the crowd, although they did not actually fire it. Several arrests were made, including of one of the organizers, and as it turns out, Stoner's event was also disrupted from within the hotel, where a demonstrator had strategically rented a room in advance.

The following year, PART issued Volume 1 Number 1 of ***"Turning the Tide,"*** then subtitled ***"L.A. Anti-Racism Newsletter"*** as a single sheet broadside related to the revived trial of Tom Metzger of the White Aryan Resistance for a triple cross-burning some years before in the San Fernando Valley. (Charges had been twice dropped and reinstated.)

To mark this dual anniversary, ARA-LA/PART will hold two major fund-raisers in the coming year. In May, we will hold a "first annual" dinner honoring local anti-racists, in memory of John Brown, martyred abolitionist who was born on May 9, 1800. We intend to publish a commemorative dinner journal, and are seeking sponsors and donors whose ads will help to finance TTT and its distribution to hundreds of prisoners. In the fall, we will publish a special commemorative 25th anniversary well-bound issue of ***Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education***, featuring excerpts from the previous quarter-century of publication, and we're seeking ads and solidarity messages to pay for printing and distributing the issue. Please get in touch if you'd like to participate in either of these projects. -- ***Michael Novick, Editor/Publisher.***

Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education needs your help!

Postal and printing costs are up. A dozen new prisoners ask to get free subs every week. Over 1500 copies of each edition are sent free to prisoners. Friends of ARA-LA/PART are either in prison or facing prosecution for anti-fascist political activity. We had to switch to quarterly publication because of a lack of sufficient funds and staffing. The economy's in the toilet. **What can you do to help?**

We rely entirely on subscriptions and reader donations to publish. We've been coming out for 24 years, distributing thousands of copies free to prisoners, anti-racists and other concerned people without partisan subsidy, government funds or corporate grants. We depend entirely on you, the reader, to keep printing hard-hitting anti-racist, anti-colonialist analysis.

If you like what you're reading –

Don't delay -- Subscribe today!

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Pay to: Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232 (No checks to Turning the Tide, please!)

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ATTENTION PRISON SUBSCRIBERS! Because of financial constraints, prisoners who want a free subscription must contact us every 6 months. Too many papers are coming back because of address changes, releases or other similar problems. Therefore, prisoners who want to continue their subs please write us at least once during the year, and every time your address changes, with your EXACT address as it should appear on the address label to make sure the institution delivers it. **TTT** is a small project with few resources: **we can't provide books or legal aid, or investigate individuals' innocence**.

Anti-Racist Action Upsurge Reflected in National Gathering

The Anti-Racist Action Network is enjoying a renewed growth spurt in response to rising racist and fascist threats and the consolidation of a militant trend of direct anti-fascist action under conditions of 21st century repression and austerity. This growth was reflected at the ARA Network gathering scheduled for the weekend of September 16-18 in Chicago, hosted by South Side ARA with support from North Side and other allies.

The conference was set in part to incorporate and consolidate a number of new and revived chapters, including Columbus OH, and Indiana. A number of individuals who have been in dialogue about starting chapters or affiliating with the network were also invited.

Building off last year's conference in Portland, which revived the tradition of a substantial public portion of the conference for local anti-fa, the ARA Network gathering in Chicago included speakers and workshops open to the community.

Billed as the 17th annual ARA Network conference, the public day was set for Sat. Sept. 17 from 3-10pm at the U.E. Hall, 37 South Ashland Ave. in Chicago, a wheelchair-accessible, child-friendly union hall near the Ashland green/pink line station. This event was open to the public and included workshops, caucuses and discussions. People were invited to come meet other activists and organizations involved in community struggles against racist terror and other forms of oppression.

Featured speakers and presenters included Mark Clements (of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty and theChicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression) a Jon Burge torture survivor. Others were Daniel (of Four Star Anarchist Organization) & Lash, Bernadine Dohrn (a former SDS and Weather Underground member, co-author of *Race Course Against White Supremacy*), Michael Novick (editor of *Turning the Tide* and author of *White Lies White Power/The Fight Against White Supremacy & Reactionary Violence*), Xloi and Becca of Bring The Ruckus (BTR), and others. A fuller report will appear in the next issue of ***TTT***.

Excerpts from: I Was a 'Domestic Terrorist': Tales from a Post-9/11 America

by Brad Crowder

http://www.indypendent.org/2011/09/06/i-was-a-domestic-terrorist/

In August 2008, Brad Crowder and David McKay, young activists from Austin, TX, traveled to St. Paul, MN, to protest the Republican National Convention. For months Brandon Darby, an older activist and FBI informant, had been goading Brad and David to take stronger action, telling them he was going to St. Paul to "shut the fucker down." After a trailer of their supplies and homemade shields were seized by St. Paul police, the two assembled eight Molotov cocktails in the building they were staying in. The next day they decided not to use them, but failed to dispose of the devices before leaving for protests. On Sept. 2 McKay was awakened by a cop's rifle pointing at his face. Called "domestic terrorists" by authorities and the "Texas Two" by supporters, they were charged in a high-profile case to justify tens of millions in security expenses for the convention. Crowder was sentenced to two years and was released last year; McKay was sentenced to four. Brad and David's story is told in the award-winning new documentary, ***Better This World***, which aired Sept. 6 on the PBS program ***POV***. The following is Brad Crowder's first published account of his experience, an exclusive to ***The Indypendent*** newspaper and ***Truthout***.

It began with the sound of the cold metal ratchet, the pressure gripping my wrists and squeezing way up to my heart. A brief, almost flippant sentence uttered by Special Agent Christopher Langert signified my terrifying new reality: "Mr. Crowder, you're under arrest by the FBI."

Five days earlier, I'd been arrested by cops in Minneapolis for "Failure to Disperse from an Unlawful Assembly." We'd been rounded up en masse. I'd just seen David surrender to police and witnessed a cop wield his baton like a bat across the head of a photojournalist. Another comrade, whom I knew from antiracist and antifascist organizing, was with me. Tears were streaming down his face; he was screaming at the police, his voice a mix of rage, indignation and helplessness. "Noah, come on man, we've got to go." But it was too late, and we'd been corralled into a parking lot. Police ranks closed ahead of us as we ran, turning to see another line of professional violence block each avenue of freedom. "Noah! We gotta get down!" I grabbed him by the shoulder and we went belly down on the asphalt amid the chaos. I looked up at the sky and saw it fill with black. A boot came down on my back, pinning me. I turned my head in an attempt to escape the spray. A stinging cloud soaked my hair, hit the asphalt and splashed across my face and eyes. I felt the oily, peppery stench of capitalism, of the state, clinging to my flesh and burning it.

HARD TIME

My hands were zip-tied and I was bundled onto a bus to be taken to Ramsey County Jail. As far as I knew, I was looking at a petty misdemeanor charge that carried $300 bail. I'd been arrested before for a $20 sack of weed and various traffic fines that I had refused to pay due to a combination of poverty, principle and irresponsibility. Jail wasn't a new experience for me, so I was nervous but relatively light-hearted. That changed two days later, when I heard the door to my unit slam shut. I saw David being led into the unit by a pair of men who wore their credentials on chains around their necks. David was wearing completely different clothing. This confused me and I became scared. What I didn't know at the time was that the building where David and the rest of us were staying had been raided by the Joint Terrorism Task Force. I became scared because David and I had made eight Molotov Cocktails the night before the protests began. The firebomb of the poor, they consisted of motor oil and gasoline poured into wine bottles that were duct-taped closed, with cotton tampons rubber-banded to the sealed necks. When the tampon was lit and the bottle thrown, the shattered glass would release the fuel to be ignited by the flame. We were stupid for making them, but smart for not using them. When we woke up we decided not to use them and to destroy them when we had the chance, but we never did.

WHO'S THE TERRORIST?

I learned soon enough that our faces were all over the papers, television and the internet. I was now a "domestic terrorist." They were serious. I wasn't allowed a call for a week. All my family and friends learned of my fate via the media. My mom saw it on the local Midland news. Two close friends saw my mug shot plastered across the big screen TV at a club in Austin. I couldn't process any of it. The term domestic terrorist sounded so melodramatic. I could never build any sort of connection between my identity and the term itself. Hell, as far as it seemed to me, David and I were the only ones terrified. When Agent Langert ratcheted those cuffs on my wrist, it was to transport me from state to federal custody. When I arrived at the intake, the booking area was stuffed with bodies, around 70, all coming in from anti-immigrant ICE raids. Processing was going to take a lifetime.

After a few days in the pit, I was transported to my first federal court hearings. Prison was bad, but court was worse. In prison, the monsters in the room were generally the minority and much less dangerous. More honest, too. I can't recall the number of times I watched police testify falsely in damning detail. One officer testified under oath that during a warrantless raid of our group's UHaul trailer, he and his team had seized a large number of wooden batons that were to be used to attack cops during the protest. I wanted to stand and scream, to demand to see one "baton," one photo of a "baton." Nothing approximating a "wooden baton" existed. All I could do was sit in my chair and stare dumbfounded. I knew abstractly the system was crooked, but this was reality. The same officer was asked why they'd conducted the raid without a warrant. His answer pissed me off as much as the manufactured evidence. He said that given the protests the department was in "disruptive" and not "investigative" mode. Since they were more interested in disrupting protest activity as opposed to prosecuting under due process of law, there was no worry about "tainting" any evidence. The only check that was supposed to prevent illegal raids was tossed out the window, with total legality.

TRUTH-TELLING

I want, desperately, to write about what I learned from inmates. I want to write volumes, inspirational volumes, extolling the humanity of those I met inside the god-awful human warehouse that is prison, that these men are neither angels or demons, in all their fucked up, contradictory glory. I want to defend David against the sloppy misstatements and outright lies and attacks leveled against him. I want to put his one lie against the wall of lies built against him by this system that postures so self-righteously over the bodies it jails and buries. But I can't in any medium. There can be no representation of the truth. It can only be leveled by the historical movement of myself, of David, of Cowboy, Ghost, Peanut, Bob, and all the others, inside and out, slammed by a twisted system. The truth can be told in only one way, through the revolution of this system, this shit. The truth of racism can only be articulated in the revolution against it. The truth of prisons, of terrorism, of State violence, of poverty, of war, and hopelessness can only be articulated in their negation.

Am I a domestic terrorist? Domestic terrorist is an absurd term, and in its absurdity it is terrifyingly dangerous. Would you take Bernie Madoff seriously if he called you a crook? Why should I take the Feds, the most bomb-laden, destructive gaggle of lost souls on the planet, seriously for calling me a terrorist? My life today is fine, except for knowing how many great people are in prison: David in particular. I'm in college studying economics. It's terrible, but for some reason I love it. I work at a local sandwich shop, the same one I worked at before I was arrested. I still organize and will continue to do so until I'm dead. I look at the Arab Spring, the European rebellions, and the rumblings of working people in the U.S., and I see clearly on whose side history rests.

They say I'm a domestic terrorist. I say they're on their way out. Let's see who's right.

NSM Rally in W. Allis WI Surrounded by Thousands of Counterprotesters

by South Side Chicago ARA

On Sat. Sept. 3, the neo-nazi National Socialist Movement (NSM) held a rally at the courthouse of West Allis WI to protest what they called "violent black-on-white hate crimes" at the county fair a month earlier. Their rally was met with thousands of counter-protesters who voiced that they did not want the NSM's racial hatred in their community. Police from multiple jurisdictions came out to protect the NSM rally with a system of barricades and rows of armed riot cops. The rally ended with the state, the fascists, and the counter-protesters all declaring victory. While the majority of West Allis came out to denounce the Nazis hate speech, the fight to drive out fascism in Wisconsin is far from over.

The rally was organized by Wisconsin NSM unit leaders Harriet Paletti and Paul Paletti (20225 W Coffee Road, New Berlin 53146, 414-554-2483) who had also recently protested Milwaukee Pridefest and the roller derby team "Rushin' Rollettes" earlier this year. Speaking to the press, they talked about their "non-violent" intentions; but NSM members have a long history of racial violence: Paul has done prison time for hate crimes where he attacked a Mexican teenager outside a bar while shouting racial slurs. Harriet is running for her district's alderman position in 2012 as well as the Crime Prevention Committee. She also operates "Garfield Accounting Services" but it's hard to imagine anybody trusting these nazi scum with personal financial info. Although the NSM had only 25 people, their opportunist attempts to gain local supporters by capitalizing off the incidents at the state fair seemed to be somewhat successful. It appeared there was a small, but noteworthy, appeal towards white supremacy among some residents and youth of West Allis.

The liberal belief that we should "peacefully voice our opposition" while respecting the fascists' "right to free speech" creates a platform that allows nazis to spread their ideology and think they're safe to come back. The State considered the action a victory in that they protected the nazis' "free speech" while restricting the counter-protesters to penned-in "free speech zones," even arresting a few. The fascists considered the action a success as they were able to bring local and out-of-town racists to West Allis without much confrontation. (There were allegedly attacks by militants against fascists on two separate incidents.) They had an opportunity to make a physical presence, as well as news headlines and TV interviews in an attempt to spread their racial hatred while fanning the flames of an already tense situation.

The counter-protest failed in that it allowed fascists to have the floor at all: there were several dozen other racists who were not part of the NSM openly walking among the protesters with little to no opposition. A crowd of mostly black protesters did move to confront the armed racists in our midst, only to be stopped by self-appointed "peace patrols." This betrayal by protest organizers reveals the poverty of the liberal non-violent doctrine: it is not up to anyone to dictate and control the way in which people challenge oppressive forces. Fascism is a grass roots movement that must be defeated at the roots with militant confrontation. Playing the pacifist role and stifling peoples natural desire to confront neo-nazis is not only authoritarian but actually helps the fascists build their movement.

Fortunately among the crowd of boring protestors there were a handful of militant antifascists, and word on the street says there were a few confrontations against the NSM and their supporters in two incidents. From One Peoples Project: "According to an account on the Internet, NSM members were confronted by antifa at a meeting point for those attending the rally, and later in its aftermath. 'The Milwaukee NSM was attacked in their car by antifascists as they (the NSM) attempted to pick up supporters for their rally, leaving their supporters deserted and unable to join up,' the brief report read. Following the rally a local nazi received blows to the face, to let him know you can't freely walk to and from the Nazi demo and to send a similar message to the crew he was rolling with."

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) **WE GO WHERE THEY GO:** Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) **WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US:** This doesn't mean we never go to court, but the cops uphold white supremacy and the status quo, They attack us and everyone that resists oppression. We must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) **NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS:** In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

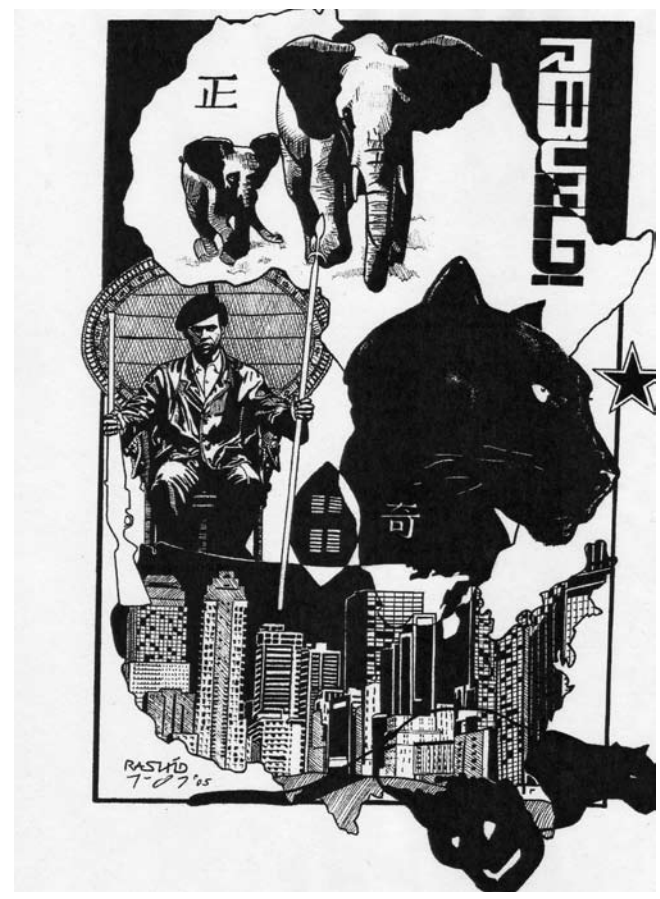
4) **We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom.** ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a free classless society. **WE INTEND TO WIN!**

From the Archives:

A Black Manifesto: July 2000

By General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out), ***Black Riders Liberation Party***

This letter is a position paper to my brother and comrade Sesso Montgomery. He's a committed Black revolutionary who has been held political prisoner for over 11 years inside California prison slave camps on trumped up charges. After he heard the Pigs raided our headquarters in Watts he was allegedly involved in a physical altercation with a prison guard and put in solitary confinement. I wrote this report to my brother in the spirit of George and Jonathon Jackson. We will now criticize the unjust with the weapon!



Dear Comrade, Revolutionary Greetings! I know it's been a long time since you heard from me. My sincerest apologies to you. I'm living under strain. There have been numerous issues that have distracted me from my duties. In our political thrust to bring about freedom and Black self-determination in the neo-colonies out here, the Black Riders Liberation Party has been engulfed in repressive attacks launched by the racist pigs. Of course, we counter-attacked, but reestablishing a solid organizational structure throughout the community has been difficult. The enemy ruling class understands the value of mass psychology. They have scientifically taught people 'what to think,' while we have the more problematic job of promoting 'how to think.' The goal is still the same: building a communal infrastructure capable of fielding a people's army.

In our efforts to build tangible unity and increase social strength in the Black community, we've helped organize 'gang' truce football games (I prefer not to call us gangs because we are tribes). They are a part of our B.O.S.S Black on Black violence prevention program, ever since a peace treaty was agreed on by the tribes in Watts in 1992. This initial truce generated the black consciousness that provided fuel for the rebellious explosion in the aftermath of the acquittal of the cops who beat Rodney King and the wrist slap for the Korean grocer who murdered Latasha Harlins.

That peace treaty was agreed on two days before the L.A. uprising and ushered in a temporary truce between all tribes in southern California. But it only lasted a few weeks because the f*ing pigs sabotaged it by sending government spies into the Black community to cause tension and tribal warfare after the rebellion. Watts only survived the repression because of extensive organizing and as it's a small cohesive community. Even this small sign of unity has been under siege because the fascist rulers understand the Watts truce will eventually spark something a thousand times more productive - armed revolution!

For three days in '92 the people took over one of the biggest cities in Amerika and the action was completely unorganized. Imagine what would happen if we were fully organized. President Bush had just defeated Iraq in an imperialist war and he had to make a mad dash to call home 'the boys' to help reestablish National security during the biggest uprising in US history. It was started and carried by the notorious Bloods and Crips -- the urban Black lumpenproletariat.

All of white Amerika stood up and took notice when we united and rebelled against the fascist state. The reactionary propaganda machine kicked into high gear to smother the explosion, with a flood of reports in which Rodney King was used to mouth a few well-worded lies that he learned from the snake. To establish 'law and order' and redirect revolutionary rage into empty outlets, they made Rodney King ask the now classic cliché "Can't we all get along?" The enemy tried to reduce one of the most tragic episodes in race relations into a one-line joke! Peaceful coexistence is impossible with the white power structure because oppression breeds resistance.

The fear of Blacks and revolution is at the core of white racist psychology. In the early '80s the oppressor encouraged the growth of Bloods and Crips by smuggling crack cocaine and military weapons to the tribes in the Black neo-colony. Two main reasons why the ruling elite and their hired gunslingers manipulated us into intensifying our own genocide was to create the prison-industrial complex to control the most rebellious people, simultaneously raking in profits for the capitalist global economy. It was also a defense mechanism erected against future revolutionary activity in the Black community, after the fascists destroyed the old Black Panther Party, by splitting us up into small tribes feuding over territory that the elite really owned and controlled.

The neocolonial repressive measures launched against the Black community in the last 30 years is not a sign of white power structure security but a manifestation of its insecurity. Total repression and genocide aren't possible if we organize ourselves for survival first -- if we construct the commune, a sense of community, a common class interest. The Black commune is the vehicle for the ultimate drive by against the fascist state!

As comrade George Jackson points out, "…we must realize the oppressive contract can't be broken as long as any sort of hierarchy exists to perpetuate the sensitized relationships of American tribalism, classism, and racism. Society is rendered impossible by such relationships. The establishment of society through intercommunalism (Huey P. Newton's concepts of the revolutionary solidarity of all oppressed people of the world) will require that the social contract be completely altered. Clearly alteration cannot take place unless hierarchy is destroyed. Can we expect the hierarchy to do away with itself?"

When we resisted in '92, fascist Pete Wilson moved to pass laws to put a leash on young Blacks who had finally united and turned on their slave masters. The 3-strikes act and other anti-people bills passed as a direct response to the uprising. The public fear of 'crime' must be seen as white America's reaction to the fear of 'niggers' shooting in retaliation for racial oppression! Anglo-Saxon law is grounded in the principle that the haves must be protected from the have-nots.

The peace treaty in Watts has become very dangerous to the establishment. We have been waging a relentless struggle to defend our people and the truce from the oppressor's occupying pig army. The fascist pigs' main goal is to destroy revolutionary consciousness. The 'gang' truce football games' underlying theme is to bring hostile tribes together to teach our people we're one family, one community, and one Nation. Our main political theoretician Comrade George Jackson wrote, "It's the sense of the finality of their exclusion from solid social -economic participation that forces our youth away from the crippled family unit into the streets. [The loss of -- and longing for – community] causes the excessive importance of meaningless relationships and the prevalence of anti-communal behavior."

In the process of building unity, we teach Black men and women that to engage in tribalism against each other is tantamount to siding with white supremacy. The best way to get meaningful respect is to actively join the Party and declare war on the capitalist system! In 1992 we didn't just loot Korean stores. There were 16 gun battles between brothers and pigs reported! The truce combined with the rebellion represented the decline of tribalism and signaled the rise of urban guerrilla warfare inside the Empire's slums. As comrade George Jackson says, "We must prove our predictions about the future with action." But the state prevailed at that time.

I was captured and made political prisoner at the beginning of this new millennium. After the pigs raided our headquarters in Watts spraying mace and swinging billy clubs they captured one of our soldiers. We responded by marching into the lobby of 108th precinct and demanded the release of our comrade Daude Sherills (a lead organizer of the 'gang' truce football games). While we stood in military formation inside the station, one of the pigs came from behind a desk and tried to brutalize me so I defended myself from the attack. This action had domino effect when more pigs ran into the lobby and the comrades followed my example. We relentlessly fight the myth, the hoax, that repression can work against the collective consciousness of the commune, and prove that ideals cannot be killed with violence. We bled; 'they' bled. After 10 minutes of hand-to-hand combat with the Gestapo our 20 men and women unit was ultimately subdued. The soldier we went to the station to free was released a couple of hours later. Seven of us were arrested on trumped up charges that were eventually dropped but the pigs kept me locked up for six months on a parole violation stemming from the incident. As Mao Tse-Tung teaches us, "Politics is war without bloodshed, and war is politics with bloodshed!"

The Black Riders have become the highest expression of organized rage in the new Black Liberation movement. 'Action makes the front.' We refuse to be intimidated by repression. We retaliate blow for blow. The oppressor is strong, he might beat us down to our knees, might crush us to the ground, but it will be physically impossible for the oppressor to go on. At some point his legs will get tired, then the people will tear his kneecaps off.

Bulletproof love from your li'l bro', General T.A.C.O.

Long live our B.O.S.S. Black on Black violence prevention program!
Revolution in the new millennium!
All Power to the People!

When the Prison Gates Are Opened, the Real Dragon Will Fly Out!

by the Black Riders Liberation Party

Mao Tse-Tung points out that a single spark can start a prairie fire! The new prison movement has officially begun.

The Pelican Bay SHU hunger strike catapulted into a nationwide prison strike. Thousands of supporters and fellow strikers could be found in prisons (concentration camps) throughout the massive, overcrowded prison industrial complex. Many different races of oppressed people participated.

The Black Riders helped to support the strike and to bring it to national attention. We held press conferences, and distributed the five core demands to thousands of people on the streets of L.A. and Oakland. We demonstrated in full Panther uniform outside the L.A. County Jail and in front of the reactionary Reagan State Building with family members of the strikers, Bilal Ali and many different organizations. Also our nationwide Black Riders prison chapter helped to organize other prisoners to fast and educate people to the real issues that sparked the fast. We worked in the Jericho Amnesty Movement locally and nationally. Comrade Mutope Duguma (s/n James Crawford) and the other Pelican Bay SHU hunger strike leaders of all nationalities should be respected, protected and held in high esteem.

We must coordinate strategy and tactics, and combine experience. Coordination requires organization, and organization can only be effective if each fighting unit is a disciplined part of the whole. Attack must be planned, and losses in one zone must be compensated for by gains in another until the new generation movement of Black and oppressed people is finally victorious. As George Jackson points out, "The war goes on no matter where one may be at on bourgeois dominated soil."

"There are still some Blacks in here who consider themselves criminals – but not many. Believe me, my friend, with the time and incentive that these brothers have to read, study and think, you will find no class or category more aware, more embittered, desperate or dedicated to the ultimate remedy – Revolution. The most dedicated, the best of our kind, you'll find them in Folsoms, San Quentins, and Soledads."—George Jackson.

All Power to the People!
Free All Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War!

An Appeal for Funds

The Black Riders Liberation Party is appealing for donations to help produce a new issue of their paper, the **Black Rider African Intercommunal News Service**, Volume 4. The issue is planned to be in full-color to increase its readability and appeal to the Black, Brown and other communities and to young people generally. Please send cash, checks payable to cash, or US POSTAL money orders only made out to Boxholder, to the **BRLP, PO Box 8297, Los Angeles CA 90008**. Think of it as an investment in the future!

Hunger Strike Against Torture

by ***All of Us or None***

The 'hood to Torture Chamber Pipeline

It's Friday night and police have several Latino youth detained on the corner of a 'barrio' in LA. Simultaneously, 400 miles north, several African-American young people have been stopped in a North Oakland park. Gang unit officers in both cities are asking the teenagers questions. The youngsters' responses may make them prime candidates for Security Housing Units (SHUs) at state prisons in the near future. How can a routine stop turn into a potential life sentence in a 10' X8' soundproof, sunless solitary chamber? The answer will take us down a chilling path, where torture has been used by law enforcement and correctional officers to exercise and maintain power over people and communities they deem a threat to the establishment they serve and protect.

The Truth behind Gang Injunctions and Gang Validation

The ongoing attacks in communities throughout CA destabilize communities and families. One of the tools employed for racial profiling by local governments is the gang injunction. These have been used in Southern California since the '80sand have been introduced in Northern California as the 'answer' to social problems. These restraining orders target young men of color and neighborhoods slated for gentrification and redevelopment. The injunctions name individuals or a group of "John Does," as a "gang," and prohibit them from otherwise legal activities - like frequenting a neighborhood, associating with other named individuals, wearing certain colors, or having certain tattoos. The injunctions subject them to additional punishments including county jail time, for violations.

Gang Databases

The injunctions generate ammunition for expanding unreliable "gang databases." They, particularly Cal-GANG, the statewide CA gang database, are absorbing the names and lives of young people. Some people may seek to end the torture or harassment they're suffering by providing law enforcement or correctional officers with names or information, whether reliable or not. Those named may be subject to future unrelated punishment, regardless of whether they're in a gang. As a result, many young people are being erroneously labeled, charged, convicted, and railroaded to prison, as alleged "gang members." If sentenced by the prison to the SHU for a disciplinary infraction, their "affiliation" may result in an indefinite sentence. Once inside the CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, CDCR, the concept of rehabilitation seems to be abandoned at the prison gate.

CDCR has done everything it can to dehumanize people inside the SHUs in Pelican Bay, Corcoran, Tehachapi and Valley State Prison for Women. CDCR and the media consistently label people inside the SHUs as the "worst of the worst," to gain public support for the daily torture practiced inside. People may be designated to California SHUs through the "gang validation" process - whereby a book, friend, or tattoo may be used arbitrarily to place alleged gang members indefinitely in solitary confinement.

To people unaware of the reality behind the smoke-screen, gang injunctions and validation seem like appropriate tools to combat violence in cities and inside prisons. But to the people being targeted by injunctions & validations and their families, the reality is different. The process by which people are being placed on gang injunction lists and in SHUs has created a totalitarian system that reinforces racial profiling and institutionalized white supremacy. It lacks accountability and any semblance of humanity. Labeling people as gang members at a young age has allowed police to harass and terrorize people in their own homes. It has also permitted the torture of people in solitary units inside CDCR, who have been there for years, and in some cases for more than three decades.

The Five Core Demands of the Prison Hunger-Strikers

The inhumane conditions inside the CDCR, particularly in SHUs, have brought prisoners together across racial, geographical, and political lines. People have united to fight for changes in SHU conditions. These men have suffered grave injustices for decades. CDCR administration, the courts, and media have disregarded all previous attempts to change conditions. Even a hunger strike 10 years ago at Pelican Bay was ignored. As a result, the hunger-strikers developed five core demands:

1) **End Group Punishment & Administrative Abuse:** Hold people accountable for their individual actions, rather punishing everyone.

2) **Abolish the Debriefing Policy, and Modify Active/Inactive Gang Status Criteria:** The 'debriefing' policy is known as "snitch or die" - since the only way out of the SHU is to debrief (Inform on another prisoner, true or not), parole, or die - and parole is automatically denied to anyone serving a SHU sentence. In some cases, people have been in the SHUs since the '60s and 70s for sharing political beliefs that differ from conventional ideologies. For them, "debriefing" is a process of betraying their affiliations with certain people or ideas.

3) **End Long-Term Solitary Confinement.** Comply with recommendations from 2006 of the US Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons. International human rights organizations recognize that sensory deprivation is a form of psychological torture.

4) **Provide Adequate and Nutritious Food, adequate medical care, and access to natural light.**

5) **Expand and Provide Constructive Programming and Privileges for Indefinite SHU Status Inmates.** People in SHUs are not being released, since there are no constructive programs available to them with which to qualify for parole.

Resistance to Win Dignity, Humanity

Since the last meeting between CDCR and the hunger strike representatives was not productive, hunger strikers have announced they may restart the strike on September 26, as the last resort to restore their minds, dignity, and humanity. The torment they've been experiencing can only come to an end if people inside and outside the cages come together and demand an end to torture.

NEXT STEPS:

1) Prisoners should write their personal testimony for the Assembly and Senate Public Safety Committees, addressing letters to Assemblymen Tom Ammiano, State Senator Loni Hancock, and Governor Brown at the State Capitol in sacramento. The letters can be sent directly to them, or to one of the organizations below, who can type them and keep copies for the record.

2) People everywhere should sign up to receive action updates from the hungerstrike solidarity coalition: www.prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com and pressure the state government.

3) Medical professionals should circulate letters addressing how long-term solitary confinement, sensory deprivation, amounts to psychological torture. Civil rights and Faith Based Organizations should visit and talk to people inside the Pelican Bay SHU.

The power is in our collective message and our unrelenting efforts to end torture. Only through collective efforts across racial and geographical lines, as demonstrated by the people inside Pelican Bay SHUs and other prisons across CA, will people be able to put an end to torture in prisons and in our communities. Only then will children be able to walk freely though the streets of L.A., Fresno and Oakland, without fear of being harassed by those who are paid to protect them.

Legal Organizations:

For more information, contact prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com.

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC), 1540 Market St., Suite 490, San Francisco, CA 94102

California Prison Focus, 1904 Franklin Street, Suite 507, Oakland, Ca 94612

Victory for the SF Eight

by ***Committee in Defense of Human Rights***

"The Court, having considered the Stipulation of Facts submitted by the parties…together with the previously submitted motion to dismiss, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this case be dismissed." -- August 18, 2011, Philip J. Moscone, Judge of the Superior Court.

So concludes a case that was initiated in a Joint Terrorism Task Force investigation in 2003, grand jury investigations that locked up former Panthers in 2005, and charged eight brothers in January of 2007. "It took over 4 1/2 years to win this case!" said Francisco Torres.

This case started 40 years ago with an attack on the Ingleside Police Station in San Francisco in August 1971, in which a SF Police Sergeant was killed. At the time, the attack was claimed to be a response to the assassination of George Jackson the previous week in San Quentin.

In 1973, in a major national police offensive and COINTELPRO operation designed to destroy the Black Panther Party, over a dozen Party members were arrested in New Orleans. At least three of the men were tortured and forced to sign statements regarding the Ingleside attack, but a 1975 prosecution based on the torture-induced statements was thrown out of court.

Decades later, in 2005, the government need to promote an "anti-terrorism" agenda and to re-criminalize the history of the Black Panther Party drove the reopening of this cold case through a Grand Jury. There was strong resistance to the Grand Jury, but in 2007 charges were brought against the men who become the San Francisco 8. With the same solidarity shown in resisting the 2005 Grand Jury, and with growing community support for the Brothers, and a film, ***Legacy of Torture***, which exposed the background, the SF8 case soon began to unravel for the prosecution. In an unprecedented development, five of the men were released on bail.

In 2008 the conspiracy charge against Francisco Torres was dropped and all charges against five were dropped (Ray Boudreaux, Richard Brown, Hank Jones, Richard O'Neal and Harold Taylor). Jalil Muntaqim and Herman Bell, who have spent decades in prison as political prisoners, pleaded no contest to reduced charges of conspiracy and manslaughter without prison sentences. This left a single charge against Cisco for the last three years, which has just been dismissed.

Four and a half years of mass support for the Brothers, including resolutions from the SF Central Labor Council, the Berkeley City Council, and several SF Supervisors, have broken the back of a vindictive prosecution organized by Homeland Security, the FBI, and then CA Attorney General (now Governor) Jerry Brown. "Against the backdrop of the war on terror, steadfast solidarity among defendants and supporters of all stripes prevailed over conventional wisdom. Again the San Francisco 8 thank the people around the planet and especially the Bay. The success belongs to each and every one of you," commented Ray Boudreaux. Hank Jones declared, "There's no doubt in my mind, had it not been for the solidarity committee and the film, Legacy of Torture, we would have been railroaded. Mobilizing the way we did all across the country, put the government on notice that we were a force to be reckoned with!" The defense committee has vowed to keep up the pressure until Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim are back with their families and community. Hank Jones said, "Now that Cisco is cleared, we can shift our focus to building a movement to release other political prisoners."

Please support these brothers by sending a donation. Make checks payable to PDF/Committee for the Defense of Human Rights and mail to the address below or donate on line at

www.freethesf8.org/donate.html

Committee for Defense of Human Rights (CDHR), PO Box 90221, Pasadena, CA 91109, (415) 226-1120, FreetheSF8@riseup.net, www.freethesf8.org

National Confederation against Unjust Incarcerations and for the Liberation of Political Prisoners

Progress Report on August 19-21, 2001 National Strategy Meeting, Washington, DC

by Jihad Abdulmumit

On August 19-21, 2011 in Washington, DC, the Baltimore/Washington Jericho Amnesty Movement chapter hosted what turned out to be a historic weekend gathering of organizations from across the US working to free political prisoners and fight against unjust prison conditions. Two key objectives were met:

1. Establish the National Confederation against Unjust Incarcerations and for The Liberation of Political Prisoners [National Confederation – (NC)].
2. Adopt a preliminary 5-year-plan of actions to free all political prisoners.

The National Confederation is an alliance of organizations dedicated to the cause of –

- Preventing unjust incarcerations due to racial, political, and religious profiling through education, supporting legal efforts, and organizing political initiatives to challenge and change state and federal laws and policies geared to this end;
- Educating communities across America to judicial excesses by organizing programs, forums, lobbying, and protests;
- Calling for the amnesty of all domestic political prisoners whose incarceration is a result of their social and political involvement and fight in the struggles against racism, political repression, and all the exploitative vestiges of capitalism;
- Educating communities across the US to the reality of US political prisoners;
- Supporting legal efforts to free all such political prisoners.

We now have a tangible mechanism to communicate with one another, share resources and ideas, and amplify our local efforts and initiatives. There were approximately 75 participants from various organizations. The effort also received significant input by mail from many political prisoners. Already the NC Interim Steering Committee has conducted its first teleconference call, which began the process of refining the structure and paving the way for the election of the NC staff this December.

The National Confederation looks forward to building strong and viable alliances and working relationships among all of its growing membership.

Straight Ahead!

Free Oscar Lopez Rivera

Free All Puerto Rican Political Prisoners

by Lawrence Reyes, ***Puerto Rican Alliance***

On October 12-13, Carlos Alberto Torres, a former political prisoner of the Puerto Rican independence struggle, will be in Los Angeles as part of a national tour to build the campaign to free his compatriot, Oscar Lopez Rivera. Torres will be speaking at CSU Long Beach and at a community event at the So. Cal. Library for Social Studies and Research, 6120 S. Vermont Ave., L.A. (between Slauson and Gage). For more information, contact the Puerto Rican Alliance at 310-460-8686, alianzapr@hotmail.com.

Oscar Lopez Rivera was born Jan. 6, 1943 in San Sebastián, Puerto Rico. His family moved to the US when he was a teen. Adapting to his new home, he managed English well enough to help the Spanish-speaking adults in the neighborhood. He was drafted into the US army; in Viet Nam Oscar began to understand what it meant to be Puerto Rican in the US, and the need for a people to control its own destiny. He earned a Bronze Star. When he returned in '67, he found that drugs, unemployment, housing and education for Puerto Ricans had reached dire levels and began organizing to improve their quality of life. Oscar worked in the creation of the Puerto Rican High School and Cultural Center in Chicago, and in developing the Committee to Free the Five Puerto Rican Nationalists. He struggled for bilingual education in public schools and for universities to recruit Latino students, staff and faculty. He helped found education programs at the prison in Stateville, IL. He worked against drugs and police brutality, and to end discrimination in public utilities. Respected by the community for his tireless work, he was targeted by the establishment to stop his organizing. He and other young Puerto Ricans, inspired by guerrilla movements around the world, decided their work for independence could best be conducted in clandestine fashion.

He was arrested in 1981, accused of membership in a clandestine force seeking Puerto Rico's independence, and sentenced to 55 years for seditious conspiracy. In 1988, as the result of a government-concocted conspiracy to escape, 15 more years were added. His release date is 2027, at age 84. In Jan. 2011, he was denied parole, contrary to guidelines.

From 1986-98, he was held in the most super maximum-security federal prisons, in conditions not unlike those at Guantanamo, conditions the Red Cross, among other human rights organizations, called tantamount to torture. Then, after 7 years in general population of a maximum-security prison, he was transferred to a harsher pen, home of the federal death row. In 2008, for the first time, he was placed in medium security, with the unique condition that he report every two hours to corrections staff. In spite of 30 years of adversity in prison, Oscar has maintained his integrity—political, physical, emotional, and intellectual. Fit, studious, and focused, he reads voraciously, keeps up to date with current affairs, and writes. He has become a talented artist, whose drawings and paintings form an exhibit with Carlos Alberto's ceramics, ***Not Enough Space***.

Write to him at:

Oscar López Rivera, #87651-024,
FCI Terre Haute,
P.O. Box 33,
Terre Haute, IN 47808.

Join Us in Los Angeles – November 2

Building a National Formerly-Incarcerated Peoples' Movement

by "***All of Us or None***"

All over the country, for ten years and more, formerly-incarcerated and convicted people have been mobilizing to focus and strengthen our voices. The organizing has taken many forms – caucuses and workshops at conferences, regional and national meetings, and a civil rights march and strategy session last February in Alabama. In November in Los Angeles, we will hold a national strategy session to unite our various organizations and campaigns by adopting a National Agenda.

At the Alabama meeting last February, formerly-incarcerated leaders from around the US united on the pressing need to build a civil rights movement to restore the civil and human rights denied us because of past convictions. Prison is the new method by which millions of people of color are permanently denied their rights. We marched across the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge to signify that the civil rights movement of the 1960's will not be over until formerly-incarcerated people win full restoration of our rights. Fifty formerly incarcerated and convicted organizers came with dedication and commitment stating that this was our time. We met with Alabama elected officials at the State Capitol, with Alabama's Chief Justice, and other elected officials. Twenty people volunteered to join a steering committee, providing us greater diversity in both geography and gender. We decided to hold regular conference calls to move forward with the agenda and coordinate convening in Los Angeles. We agreed to accept as our vision "The Fight for Full Restoration of Our Civil and Human Rights."

People from all over the US will continue the work of unity-building by adopting a National Agenda to advance our movement. On Wed., Nov. 2, 2011 in LA, formerly-incarcerated and convicted people, our families, and our allies nationally will convene to discuss and ratify a National Agenda to restore our civil and human rights. We urge everyone to join this effort, particularly formerly-incarcerated people and our families.

The meeting will be held at Freedom Hall in the Watts Community Labor Action Center, 10850 South Central Avenue, L.A. There is no registration fee and no deadline for registering., but PLEASE REGISTER NOW so we can plan for food and reserve housing in advance.

Register at http://unprison.com/register-for-la/

We will begin with breakfast at 8:30 a.m., and the conference will start at 9 a.m. We are trying to keep expenses low. Unfortunately, there are no scholarships available for travel or housing. If you're coming from out of town, please plan to travel on Nov. 1, so we can begin the strategy session at 9 a.m. Housing for the night of Nov. 1 will be available near WLCAC at rates of $59-$69 for a double room.

We believe unity of purpose will allow us to build political power. Many of us are already working locally on similar campaigns, to achieve the same demands. After Nov. 2, we will organize and mobilize nationally, to support the human rights of people locked up in cages, serve our communities, and create new solutions. Organizers, artists, musicians, activists, and media makers: the time is now for a unified grassroots Movement.

[Ed. Note: This gathering will coincide with a national ***No More Drug War*** conference in L.A. Nov. 2-5. See **http://www.reformconference.org/** for more details.]

Irvine 11: Free Speech on Trial in OC

"No unlawful act was committed"

by Nora
http://electronicintifada.net/blog/nora/recap-first-day-irvine-11-trial-no-unlawful-act-was-committed

Opening statements in the Irvine 11 trial included explicit deconstruction by the defense team of the Orange County DA's argument that the Muslim students who protested an Israeli official's speech last year did so in violation of a CA penal code for conspiracy. "You cannot have a conspiracy to commit an unlawful act if there is not an unlawful act that has been committed," stated a defense attorney in the courtroom today. The trial, now underway in the OC courthouse in Santa Ana, focuses on the prosecution's claim that the students violated the penal code that could send the students to jail for up to two years on two misdemeanor counts: conspiracy to disrupt a meeting and disruption of a meeting.

Kifah Shah, media coordinator and spokesperson for the Irvine 11 solidarity group, told The Electronic Intifada that approximately 100 supporters packed the courtroom after attending a press conference outside. Several major media organizations also attended the pre-trial debriefing, which was organized by local community leaders from such groups as the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC), Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), and several interfaith leaders and professors at UC Irvine. Father Wilfredo Benitez of the Saint Anselm of Canterbury Episcopal Church told the press that "[t]his smells of persecution. In a free country … this should simply not be happening." Moutaz Herzallah, whose son Taher is among the defendants, said Rackauckas "threw the [U.S.] Constitution in the trash" when he decided to press charges. Herzallah, from Gaza, said he immigrated to the US "to have peace, dignity and honor" and that the D.A. should be prosecuted for his disregard of the Constitution.

The prosecution lawyer reiterated in court that the students had tried to "shut down" the event, and tried to show that the protest was a conspiracy. He also went over the fact that they belong to a group, the Muslim Student Union (MSU), and that these defendants "conspired together as a group to enact a heckler's veto." He added that at the beginning of [the event, the chair of the Political Science department had stated that we "expect and relish debate on campus, but will expect nothing but civility and courtesy" [from the audience]. The ADA said that even the Chancellor, when the protest began, said that "this is outrageous, and this violates the rules."

The defense attorneys also laid out what the defendants did during the protest, and what that looked like for them. What really hit it on the head was that defense attorney Reem Salahi stated exactly what was written on the index cards [from which the students read during their protest]. They were not trying to stall, prolong or stop anything; they simply wrote down what they wanted to say on their index cards. They said what they had to say, which amounted in total for each of them just a few seconds, and took up a cumulative five minutes including the jeers from the crowd.

In their emails that were subpoenaed during the investigation, the students were talking about not resisting, about being nonviolent, acting with a certain demeanor the defense was illustrating how it wasn't their intention in any way to "shut down" the event. The defense said really well that "you cannot have a conspiracy to commit an unlawful act if there is not an unlawful act that has been committed." Oren did finish his speech, at the end of which he stated that he wished the students had stayed. The penal code was not violated. That means that the prosecution's argument of a "shut down" didn't happen. I asked Shah to talk about the solidarity efforts of her campaign, at http://irvine11.com, Stand With the Eleven. She said, "This is a political opportunity for the district attorney's office everyone knows he's running for re-election. I think that if this is selective prosecution, it's really important to remember that now it's not just about these ten students, but it's significant for all Americans at this point. The precedent that is set concerns everyone's rights to free speech."

The Electronic Intifada will continue to publish updates on the Irvine 11 trial. The verdict is set for September 23 and was unavailable as we went to press.

Against Japan's Nuclear Dangers!

by Mumia Abu-Jamal 7-23-11

Brothers and Sisters of Japan: Health and strength and survival to the people of Fukushima and surrounding regions! As we survey the long and terrible history of nuclear disasters afflicting Japan, none of these were natural, and all of these were intentional.

One was acts of war as reflected in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, when the U.S. dropped A-Bombs on Japan. The other of course was the installation, construction and faulty maintenance of nuclear power plants in a region known to be prone to earthquakes.

In a sense these defective nuclear power plants were a kind of capitalism-bomb of Fukushima, for these structures are often built by government grants, for private profit, and then, when they fail, they destroy everything within miles, even at a molecular level!

We should recognize that shortly after the disaster at Fukushima, Germany announced it would shutter its own nuclear power plants--all of them! What does that tell you?

Until that happens globally we will see many more Fukushimas!

Down with Nuclear Poison!

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Note from Editor: *ARA-LA/PART is hoping to participate in the scheduled open-ended anti-war, free speech encampment in DC launching on the October 6 10th anniversary of the US invasion of Afghanistan. We see it as an important effort to overcome the binge of fear and self-aggrandizement that erupted on 9-11-11, as well as an attempt to broaden the consciousness and strengthen the resolve of the anti-war or peace movement. But we fear that the impulse to universalism and reformism will throttle this movement aborning. We are reprinting the 15 core issues they have identified, noteworthy for avoiding open mention of issues of race, gender, genocide, colonialism or fascism. Presupposing the continuity of the "three branches of government," when the US executive, legislative and judicial branches were all designed to perpetuate slavery and land theft, is not likely to lead to a successful effort for human liberation or planetary survival. But we believe every breach with the Empire must be nurtured and engaged with, particularly among well-meaning people of conscience of European descent. We look forward to the struggles and discussions that may emerge. Forward ever!*

October2011 Encampment in DC on Anniversary of Afghan War

These are the core issues identified by the October2011 Movement steering committee. This is meant to get a conversation started. We hope that you will join discussions on each issue on the Discussion board and give us your feedback. This will ultimately represent a vision of where we want to go in creating a peaceful, just and sustainable world. The October 6 commencement of action is a beginning on the path to this new world.

1. **Corporatism**– firmly establish that money is not speech, corporations are not people, only people have Constitutional rights, end corporate influence over the political process, protect people and the environment from damage by corporations.

2. **Wars and Militarism** – end wars and occupations, end private for-profit military contractors, reduce the national security state and end the weapons export industry. War crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against peace must be addressed and those responsible held accountable under international law.

3. **Human Rights** – end exploitation of people in the US and abroad, end discrimination in all forms, equal civil rights and due process for all people.

4. **Worker Rights and jobs** – all working-age people have the right to safe, just, non-discriminatory and dignified working conditions, a sustainable living wage, paid leave and economic protection.

5. **Government** – all processes of the three branches of government should be accountable to international law, transparent and follow the rule of law, people have the right to participate in decisions which affect them.

6. **Elections** – all citizens 18 and older have the right to vote without barriers, all candidates have the right to be heard and to run and all votes should be counted.

7. **Criminal justice and prisons** –end private for-profit prisons, adopt evidence-based drug policy, prisoners have the right to humane and just conditions with a focus on rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

8. **Healthcare** – create a national, universal and publicly financed comprehensive health system.

9. **Education** – all people have the right to a high quality, publicly-funded and broad education from pre-school through vocational training or university.

10. **Housing** – all people have the right to affordable and safe housing.

11. **Environment** – adopt policies which effectively create a carbon-free energy economy.

12. **Finance and the economy** – end policies which foster a wealth divide and move to a localized and democratic financial system, reform taxes so that they are progressive and provide goods, monetary gain and services for the people.

13. **Media** – airwaves and the Internet are public goods, require that media be honest, accurate and accountable to the people.

14. **Food and water** – create systems that protect the land and water, create local and sustainable food networks and practices.

15. **Transportation** – provide affordable, clean and convenient public transportation and safe spaces for pedestrian and non-automobile travel.

Commentary from ARA-LA/PART:

This is a commendable effort to initiate diaogue and broaden the scope of the anti-war movement. But the lessons of many previous attempts to create an encompassing umbrella movement or coalition that tries to sidestep or finesse the real contradictions among the people, and within people trying to make positive change, teach us that this umbrella has too many holes.

It's not enough to declare for "equal civil rights for all" without specifically addressing reproductive rights, women's rights, and the rights of LGBTQ people. It's not enough to oppose "corporatism" without opposing capitalism and colonialism. It's not enough to oppose wars and militarism without addressing the state of war that exists within and defines the borders of the US state itself, and the on-going internal war against oppressed and colonized people and against dissidents, the class war. It's not enough to "end private for-profit prisons" when the vast majority of the millions incarcerated are in public prisons.

It will take more than a better energy policy to restore the environment, and more than funding to provide a meaningful, truth-based education. It's not just "policies" that foster a wealth divide, war or discrimination, it's a system, headed by a class of people who will not give up their power and privilege without a fight -- a fight we must prepare for.

OWE AKU (BRING BACK THE WAY) PARTICIPATES IN RESISTANCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Two members of Owe Aku (Bring Back the Way), a Lakota organization from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, were arrested outside the White House Sept. 2, 2011. Debra White Plume is with the group designed for cultural preservation and protection of Lakota treaty rights and human rights. Kent Lebsock is from Owe Aku's International Justice Project, which utilizes international strategies to preserve Lakota treaties, sovereignty and self-determination,. Both were arrested participating in the two-week-long civil resistance that occurred there in opposition to the XL Pipeline and tar sands oil mining.

Organized by the Indigenous Environmental Network and their allies, Sept. 2 was designated as Indigenous Peoples' Resistance Day. The tar sands come from Native lands in Canada. The pipeline will cross hundreds of miles of Native territory, including that of the Lakota, and it violates treaty rights under the Fort Laramie Treaties of 1851 and 1868 as well as human rights under the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Before the arrests, Debra White Plume addressed the large crowd that gathered in Lafayette Park across from the White House: "Our Lakota people oppose this pipeline because of the potential contamination of the surface water and of the Oglala aquifer. We have thousands of ancient and historical cultural resources that would be destroyed across our treaty lands. As a mother and a grandmother, I am related to Mother Earth and the life-giving water and it is my spiritual responsibility to be here today protecting Mother Earth from Father Greed."

After being released from jail, White Plume, along with Kandi Mossett of the Indigenous Environmental Network, met with State Department official Daniel A. Clune, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental and Scientific Affairs. There they urged the State Department to consult at high levels with Native leaders and to consider Section 106 ("tribal" consultations) in line with free, prior and informed consent as set forth in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Kent Lebsock stated, "What action will be taken by politicians is unknown but the two-week long demonstrations at the White House and Indigenous participation are having an effect, if not on the President, at least in building alliances in opposition to corporate greed and government abuse."

The Native American peoples gathered in front of the White House fence sang throughout the long afternoon of arrests. Differing cultural viewpoints between Native and non-Native allies were only visible when the crowd would chant, "this is what democracy looks like." Native people were respectfully silent, pointing out that any American view of democracy has rarely served the interests of Native peoples, our lands or resources. Mrs. White Plume was the first Native woman to be arrested and the last five arrests were all of Native men including Owe Aku's Kent Lebsock. Speaking from the Lakota homeland, Rosalie Little Thunder, also an elder. leader, mother and grandmother from Owe Aku's International Justice Project and a long time defender of Lakota sacred sites, said of those who took part, "Today, you acquired probably hundreds if not thousands of relatives! It is a good thing to use your whole body and spirit to protect Mother Earth. Was-te ksto!"

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Call to Action Against ALEC in Phoenix this November

by Project Baldwin projectbaldwin@riseup.net

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is a massive non-profit body that brings corporations and legislators together to draft "model" legislation. For example, AZ Senator Russell Pearce (facing recall) and Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), the nation's largest private prison firm, have been members for years. ALEC finalized the model legislation which became, almost word for word, Arizona's SB1070, aka "Support Our Law Enforcement." It's the latest in the historical pattern of colonization, slave codes, convict leasing, and the drug war, that CREATES crimes and therefore criminals, for profit. With British Petroleum (BP) and the Koch brothers as some of their funders, ALEC has pushed for Three Strikes and Mandatory Minimum sentencing, as well as the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. More than 200 of ALEC's model bills became actual laws throughout the country over the past year.

We're a group of people in occupied Indigenous lands, now called Arizona, who demand the end of SB1070 and 287g, the criminalization—and incarceration—of migrants, and the militarization of the border. We oppose private prisons, detention centers, and security companies, not simply because they are private, but because we are sickened by profiteering on human misery. ALEC desires "free markets" and "limited government," which means they use the state to support profit-making, the continuance of colonization, and neo-liberal policies (NAFTA, CANAMEX, etc.) that draw lines, make laws, and build freeways and prisons to exploit labor and the earth.

Whether maintained by the state or corporations, we're against all systems of control. We are for freedom of movement for all people. ALEC should know there are a million better things to do with their time than plotting mass incarceration. But there's nowhere we'd rather be than confronting their meeting. We're calling for four days of action here in occupied Onk Akimel O'odham lands from Nov. 29 – Dec. 3, 2011, with an emphasis for action on November 30th (N30!). We encourage a creative diversity of tactics on N30, the 12th anniversary of the Seattle uprising against the WTO. No matter the acronym, ALEC is no different than all the other gangs of businessmen, politicians, and bureaucrats that we've been resisting for over 500 years.

In solidarity with everyone locked up and locked down in AZ, and all O'odham, Yaqui, Lipan Apache separated by the border, and anyone dispossessed by the wealthy and powerful…

More information on ALEC and resistance at
http://azresistsalec.wordpress.com.
More to come.

Last issue, ***TTT*** published a piece we incorrectly attributed to ***Bring the Ruckus***, who had only posted the piece, by "The Brigade," on their list-serve. We regret the error and the related misunderstanding in a response to their piece by a member of ARA. Here's a further response by "The Brigade."

On Strategic Armed Defense: Response to a Response to a Response

The Brigade respects the fact that people are taking the time to respond to our writing on the antifascist actions in Pemberton and Trenton, NJ in April, 2011. This gives us a chance to reconsider the limitations of our arguments and to revise and further develop our ideas. But to do so we must first burn down the straw men erected in this debate.

In reflecting on the conjured up spirits of the failed RAF, we feel the need to explicitly emphasize that nowhere in our writing on Trenton did we argue for "separation" or "isolation" between the underground and the aboveground. We should not be content to rehash old ideas. An armed fighting formation, just as much as a public campaign, action, service, or institution, stays or becomes extraneous if its tactics and strategy have no relation to the practical aspirations of the population. Any student of guerrilla warfare understands that it does not survive its protracted struggle without a mass base—which requires love, that unconquerable instinct.

We acknowledge that we may have encouraged assumptions of adventurism by framing the writing through an "underground-aboveground" binary. This makes the generalized realms of action—of defensive war on one hand and public militancy on the other—seem mechanistically related. We should have also given clear examples of what we are basing our arguments on, like the Underground Railroad, John Brown's posse, the African Blood Brotherhood, the Deacons of Defense, and RAM's Black Guards. So we agree with the correction—that all elements of true revolutionary activity do indeed have the same broad objective and strategy, despite varying subjects and tactics, with which to build a new world and destroy the old one.

The Many Headed Hydra

Not the dragon, but the hydra. The little modern revolutionary praxis which exists in the United States is very fragmented and multifaceted. This is no cause for concern, as the development of independent forces allows the people to strike the beast from many different angles, rather than relying on just one, preventing any one form from controlling all others and allowing for greater looseness and specificity of method. What we encourage is a specialized guerilla defensive which has to be derived from public organizing and agitation, and more importantly, based in the day to day self-activity of the masses. All elements of struggle are compatible when reciprocally related.

It is not about winning enough people over or having the perfect strategy beforehand, but rather, of the power of the spontaneous creativity of the people and the ability of revolutionists to adapt to it. We personally know that many of the rebels from the slums of Trenton were armed and ready to defend themselves against the fascists and the police. Because of these personal experiences, we still hold that clandestine tactics should be discussed on a need-to-know basis, not in the same space or time as the aboveground ones. When local friends and newcomers wanting to participate in a militant protest are alienated because of security fetishes and underground posturing—that is a mistake.

We're trying to learn something new from these experiences. Just because grandmas and children in Basque Country or Mexico or Ireland openly support guerillas that protect their neighborhoods— does not necessarily mean that they themselves are guerrillas. A popular culture of publicly and casually supporting strategic armed defense is common sense to most poor people of the world. The harder they come, the harder they fall.

-- Yours and theirs, ***The Brigade***

Note from the Editor: Mexico is a glaring example of the irresolvable and irreconcilable contradictions of imperialism. Imperialism required NAFTA, which destabilized Mexico, precipitated the Zapatista uprising, and launched a wave of mass migration. Imperialism has engaged in massive export of arms to Mexico and turned to the drug cartels when the Mexican state proved inadequate to suppress the growing indigenous and community-based insurgency, but the war of the cartels on the Mexican people has further exposed and weakened the Mexican state. Now the US seeks to use Mexican "instability" to justify military intervention south of the imposed border, but this will only serve to ignite further insurgency among the indigenous Mexican people on both sides of the border and expose the over-extension and vulnerability of US military power. We printing some excerpts of a recent interview with Noam Chomsky from Z Communications that touches on some of the US-Mexico inter-relationship.

Excaerpts from:

Violence in Mexico: An interview with Noam Chomsky

By Luis Cardenas
http://www.zcommunications.org/violence-in-mexico-by-luis-cardenas

Since the beginning of 2008, violence in Mexico, especially Ciudad Juárez, has risen to unprecedented levels. The dead, mostly civilians, have surpassed 30,000, and of those, about 8,600 occurred in Ciudad Juarez. Violence has become a way of life. I asked Chomsky about this war to understand the reasons behind it.

Luis Cárdenas: Journalists in México live in constant danger. For example, a photojournalist from *El Diario* was recently murdered in Juárez. The newspaper responded by printing an op-ed piece addressed to the cartels entitled, "What do you want from us?" Would you speculate on who is responsible for these attacks against the media and why?

Noam Chomsky: While I was there I met with journalists from La Jornada, who are extremely good. They gave me off-the-record information they had dug up about drug cartels and US tolerance of them, but they can't publish it because it's a death sentence. The cartels can kill anyone they want so the media are intimidated. It's obvious why the criminals don't want it published. *El Diario* knows exactly what the cartels want; they want them to stop publishing information about them.

La Jornada had an article on the inquiries of a professor, a specialist on drugs who works for the UN drug enforcement agency, who said 80 %of the businesses in México are involved in one way or other with the drug racket. Once you start publishing things like that, you're getting to the power centers of Mexican society and they're not going to want to be exposed. If they can use the drug assassins to stop it, they will.

Q: Do you think it's good for Mexico to suspend constitutional rights in Juárez or elsewhere until order is restored?

A: You have to ask what the Mexican government is trying to do. It looks as if they're supporting one of the cartels against the other. If that's what they are trying then there's no justification. If they want to stop the drug rackets, they know how to, and it's not military action. Part of the answer was given by the declaration of the three ex-presidents. They said that criminalizing drugs is just creating the problem and that drugs should be legalized, like alcohol, and regulated. Then you wouldn't get criminal syndicates.

The drug problem is in the US, not México. It's a demand problem—and it is not being dealt with. It's been shown that prevention and treatment are far more effective than police action, border control, and so on, but the money goes in the other direction and never has an impact. When leaders carry out policies that have no consequences for the stated goal and are very costly, you have to ask whether they're telling the truth. There are only two plausible answers: one, they're collectively insane. Or, two, they're pursuing different goals. If you want to know what the goals are, you see what other consequences are being achieved. Abroad, it's a cover for counterinsurgency. At home, it's a way to get rid of a superfluous population. There is a very close race/class correlation—not perfect but close—and in fact, black males are being removed. If it were in Colombia, they'd call it *limpieza social*. In the US, they put them in jails.

Since the drug war started, there's been a sharp increase in incarceration. The US is five, ten times as high as comparable countries, the biggest in the world, and its target is primarily black males, Hispanic males, some women, some whites, disproportionate to the population. A lot of the US industrial revolution was based on slave labor from leased prisoners in steel. This went on until World War II when there was a need for labor. There was a post-war boom that went on for 20 years in the 1950s and 1960s. During that period black men could begin to integrate into the work force and get a decent job, buy a house, send kids to school and so on. By the 1970s it was over.

The economy was financialized, production was exported, there was a rust belt developing where manufacturing jobs were no longer available. So what do you do with the black population? The answer was to throw them back in jail under the pretext of a drug war. That's the consequence and it's pretty well understood.

That's one part of the drug war. The other part is the arms. Where are the drug cartels getting their weapons? They're being provided by the US. Cut off that flow of arms, it wouldn't end the violence, but it would have a big effect.

Q: What about NAFTA? Is that part of the problem?

A: Yes. In fact, I was told that in México, close to the U.S. border—visible from spotter planes— there are big areas that used to be devoted to agriculture, which are now devoted to poppies. You can't get in there because they're guarded, first by the cartels, but also by the army, which is hand in hand with the cartels. These are among the predicted consequences of NAFTA and it's clear the Clinton administration understood it. Remember that the Mexico-US border used to be open. It was militarized in 1994 when NAFTA was passed. Maybe it's another one of those coincidences. I doubt it.

Q: Do you think it's wrong for the US to make every reasonable effort to stop illegal immigrants from entering the country?

A: It's an interesting question to ask about the US where everyone is an illegal immigrant except the people in Indian reservations. This is an immigrant society. The native population didn't have the power to prevent them from coming so they came in. Where we're sitting was the territory of the Wampanoag Indians. Until the late 1800s, entry to the US was free [to Europeans]. Then restrictions started being put in because the people who had already taken the country wanted to keep it. Should there be border controls anywhere? It depends. Suppose you believe in a free market—nobody does—but take the people who claim to believe in free markets, they should be saying that the movement of labor should be free. You go back to their saint Adam Smith; if you don't have free circulation of labor, you don't have free markets. Nobody talks about that. Should there be border controls all together, should people be free to live where they want to live? That gets to the notion of nation states.

An Open Statement to Fans of "The Help"

By Dr. Tiffany Gill, Dr. Daina Berry, Dr. Kalli N. Gross, Dr. Janice Sumler-Edmond, Dr. Ida E. Jones & the Association of Black Women Historians

On behalf of the Association of Black Women Historians (ABWH), this statement provides historical context to address widespread stereotyping presented in both the film and novel version of ***The Help***. The book has sold over three million copies, and heavy promotion of the movie will ensure its success at the box office. Despite efforts to market the book and the film as a progressive story of triumph over racial injustice, ***The Help*** distorts, ignores, and trivializes the experiences of black domestic workers. We are specifically concerned about the representations of black life and the lack of attention given to sexual harassment and civil rights activism.

During the 1960s, the era covered in ***The Help***, legal segregation and economic inequalities limited black women's employment opportunities. Up to 90% of working black women in the South labored as domestic servants in white homes. ***The Help***'s representation of these women is a disappointing resurrection of Mammy -- a mythical stereotype of black women who were compelled, either by slavery or segregation, to serve white families. Portrayed as asexual, loyal, and contented caretakers of whites, the caricature of Mammy allowed mainstream America to ignore the systemic racism that bound black women to back-breaking, low paying jobs where employers routinely exploited them. The popularity of this most recent iteration is troubling because it reveals a contemporary nostalgia for the days when a black woman could only hope to clean the White House rather than reside in it.

Both versions of ***The Help*** also misrepresent African American speech and culture. Set in the South, the appropriate regional accent gives way to a child-like, over-exaggerated 'black' dialect. In the film, for example, the primary character, Aibileen, reassures a young white child that, "You is smat, you is kind, you is important." In the book, black women refer to the Lord as the 'Law,' an irreverent depiction of black vernacular. For centuries, black women and men have drawn strength from their community institutions. The black family in particular provided support and the validation of personhood necessary to stand against adversity. We do not recognize the black community described in ***The Help*** where most of the black male characters are depicted as drunkards, abusive, or absent. Such distorted images are misleading and do not represent the historical realities of black masculinity and manhood.

Furthermore, African American domestic workers often suffered sexual harassment as well as physical and verbal abuse in the homes of white employers. For example, a recently discovered letter written by Civil Rights activist Rosa Parks indicates that she, like many black domestic workers, lived under the threat and sometimes reality of sexual assault. The film, on the other hand, makes light of black women's fears and vulnerabilities, turning them into moments of comic relief.

Similarly, the film is woefully silent on the rich and vibrant history of Black civil rights activists in Mississippi. Granted, the assassination of Medgar Evers, the first Mississippi based field secretary of the NAACP, gets some attention. However, Evers' assassination in the film sends Jackson's black community frantically scurrying into the streets in chaos and disorganized confusion -- a far cry from the courage demonstrated by the black men and women who continued his fight. Portraying the most dangerous racists in 1960s Mississippi as a group of attractive, well dressed, society women, while ignoring the reign of terror perpetrated by the Ku Klux Klan and the White Citizens Council, limits racial injustice to individual acts of meanness.

We respect the stellar performances of the African American actresses in this film. This statement is in no way a criticism of their talent. It is, however, an attempt to provide context for this popular rendition of black life in the Jim Crow South. In the end, ***The Help*** is not a story about the millions of hardworking and dignified black women who labored in white homes to support their families and communities. Rather, it is the coming-of-age story of a white protagonist, who uses myths about the lives of black women to make sense of her own. The Association of Black Women Historians finds it unacceptable for either this book or this film to strip black women's lives of historical accuracy for the sake of entertainment.

Ida E. Jones is National Director of ABWH and Assistant Curator at Howard University.
Daina Ramey Berry, Tiffany M. Gill, and Kali Nicole Gross are Lifetime Members of ABWH and Associate Professors at the University of Texas at Austin.
Janice Sumler-Edmond is a Lifetime Member of ABWH and is a Professor at Huston-Tillotson University.

Suggested Reading:

Fiction:

Like one of the Family: Conversations from A Domestic's Life, by Alice Childress
The Book of the Night Women by Marlon James
Blanche on the Lam by Barbara Neeley
The Street by Ann Petry
A Million Nightingales by Susan Straight

Non-Fiction:

Out of the House of Bondage: The Transformation of the Plantation Household by Thavolia Glymph
To Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors by Tera Hunter
Labor of Love Labor of Sorrow: Black Women, Work, and the Family, from Slavery to the Present by Jacqueline Jones
Living In, Living Out: African American Domestics and the Great Migration by Elizabeth Clark-Lewis
Coming of Age in Mississippi by Anne Moody

Any questions, comments, or interview requests can be sent to:
ABWHTheHelp@gmail.com

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Occupy the Ports!

A Day without Goldman Sachs!

December 12, 5:00 AM

Harry Bridges Park, 1126 Queens Hwy., Long Beach CA

Rising Greed Sinks All Boats!

Build for a General Strike May 1, 2012

As part of the Dec. 12 Boycott and March for legalization and good jobs, the Occupy movement will protest at one or more facilities belonging to SSA Marine, a shipper owned by Goldman Sachs, with 5 terminals and a warehouse in the Harbor area. SSA Marine was recently fined for building an illegal road to the site of its massive, dirty coal terminal project in WA. It was also caught recently not alerting workers to the threat of explosive cargo in Oakland. SSA/Goldman Sachs symbolize the ruin that corporate greed has brought into our lives. The 1% are depriving port truck drivers and other workers of decent pay, working conditions and the right to organize, even while the port of LA/LB is the largest in the US and a huge engine of profits for the 1%. The 1% have pursued a conscious policy of de-industrialization that has resulted in "trade" at the port meaning that there are 7 containers coming in for every one going out. The 1% have driven migrant workers into a "grey market" economy and repression. The 1% use police brutality and repression, jails and prisons to suppress, divide and try to silence the 99% and all who oppose their insatiable greed. To put an end to all that, we call on the 99% to march, boycott, occupy the ports, and STRIKE on December 12 for full legalization, good jobs for all, equality and justice.

Economic Justice for All!

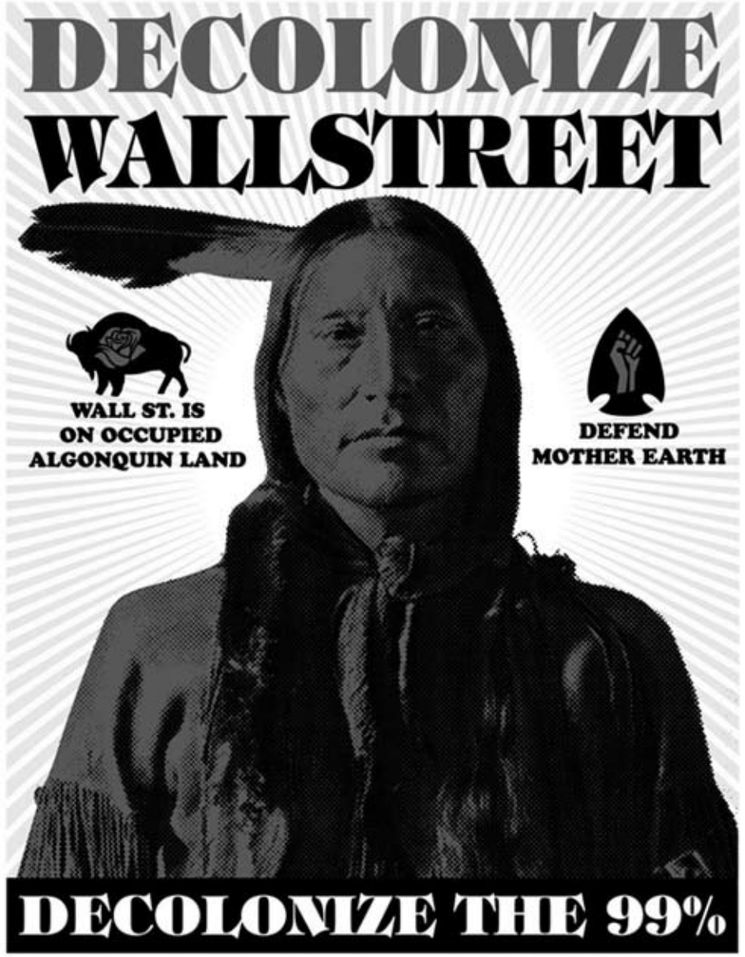
Join the West Coast Port Shutdown!

For more information: occupytheports@gmail.com 323-901-4269, www.occupylosangeles.org
or on Twitter @OccupyLA
www.occupytheports.com or www.westcoastportshutdown.org

Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

TURNING THE TIDE

Special Occupy Wall Street Issue



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GENERAL STRIKE MAY 1, 2012!

Decolonization and 'Occupy Wall Street'

by Robert Desjarlait

The Occupy Wall Street (OWS) protest has become a matter of debate in Indian country. Some have chosen to be included under the slogan "We Are The 99%"; others, like me, have not. Many of those who support OWS have come up with their own slogan: "Decolonize Wall Street." But I simply don't believe that the indigenous nations on Turtle Island are a part of that 99% equation, let alone that the OWS movement is about decolonization.

One protester, Brendan Burke, said: "Everyone has this problem. White, black. Rich or poor. Where you live. Everyone has a financial inequity oppressing them."

I assume from his statement that Burke only sees things in white and black. Apparently he is color blind when it comes to red and brown.

As far as financial inequity is concerned, we, the red and the brown peoples of the Americas, have suffered financial inequity ever since the oppressors first invaded our shores. Socio-economic inequity began with the subjugation of our lands through treaties. Annuity payments were late and never the amount negotiated under the treaty. Supplies and food rations that were part of annuity payments were often appropriated by Indian agents and resold for higher prices.

The tragedy at Gaa-mitaawangaagamaag (Sandy Lake) exemplifies the socio-economic inequity of annuity payments. In the fall of 1850, nineteen Anishinaabeg bands from Wisconsin journeyed to Gaa-mitaawangaagamaag for annual annuity payments and supplies. The annuity payments and supplies were late and the people had to wait until early December before they received limited sums of money and available supplies. Trying to survive on spoiled and inadequate government rations while waiting for the annuities, 150 Anishinaabeg people died from dysentery and measles at Gaa-mitaawangaagamaag. 250 more, mostly women, children and elders, died on their way back home to Wisconsin. This is but one example of the economic inequity that has been part of the indigenous experience in the United States.

OWS organizers have repeatedly stated the inspiration for their protest is the Arab Spring movement. If this is the case, one may ask how did the indigenous peoples of the Middle East fare from the Arab Spring?

In September 2011, Daniel Gabriel, the SUA Human Rights and UN NGO Director, stated: "While the media focuses all its energy on the Palestinian search for Statehood and the 'Arab Spring', it is the reduced indigenous populations of the Middle East who continue to lose out. Time and time again, the world demands justice, democracy and freedom in the Middle East, but it fails in its obligation to demand the same for the minority groups like the Arameans. Today we barely survive in our homeland. But tomorrow we may silently vanish from existence."

If Arab Spring didn't flourish for indigenous peoples in the Middle East, how can we expect it to flourish here? If the indigenous peoples in the Middle East are barely surviving in their homelands, can we expect the Arab Spring inspired movement on Wall Street to lessen the oppression in our homelands? Will the actions on Wall Street abate our youth crisis, our teen suicide rate, our domestic and sexual abuse, or our alcohol and substance abuse in Indian Country? Will it heal our broken families and communities?

Will [Occupy] Wall Street stop the rape and plunder of Mother Earth by the mining, oil and energy interests? Will it halt the ecocide, ethnocide, linguicide, and genocide of the indigenous peoples in North America? If Gabriel's words offer any insight, then our historical trauma will not lessen but increase. It will increase in the present generation to the Seventh Generation—and beyond.

Then there is the matter of decolonization. The question is: the decolonization of what, of whom? How can decolonization be a part of the process if the occupiers are occupying occupied land?

The dominance of a white majority involved with the OWS movement explains why decolonization isn't included in the proposed list of demands issued on September 3. The list of demands includes

Separate Investment Banking from Commercial Banks;
Use Congressional authority to prosecute the Wall Street criminals responsible for 2008 crisis;
Cap the ability of corporations to contribute to political campaigns;
Congress pass the Buffett Rule, i.e., fair taxation of the rich and corporations;
Revamping Securities and Exchange Commission;
Pass effective law to limit the influence of lobbyists;
Pass law prohibiting former regulators to join corporations later.

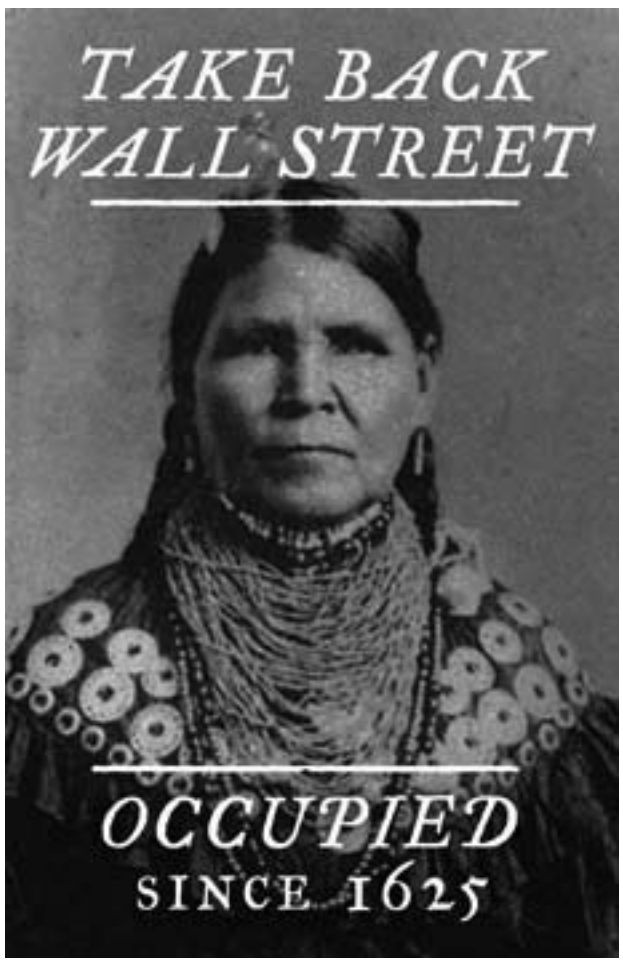
Where in this proposed list of demands is there anything remotely connected to decolonization? At its core, OWS is about corporate greed, financial accountability, and economic inequity. It's about a change in the system, although, as Gabriel points out, an Arab Spring doesn't bring change to the voices of the indigenous. If change is the basic tenant of the OWS movement, then this change should not be the exclusion of indigenous populations in the United States, rather, change should be inclusive.

The OWS movement is, at the present time, about money. The core message seems to be that corporate America and the wealthy need to share the profits. But the question is: How are those profits made? The profits of the wealthy are made through the industries they own. These industries fuel and generate profits. And they create jobs and programs.

The mining, oil, and energy industries generate enormous profits. Those profits come at a cost to Indian country, to say nothing of the environment in general. The new Indian Wars are about the opposition to ecocidal legislative policies and industries that endanger our homelands and our Mother Earth. Part of the struggle is trying to rise above the marginalization that began with colonization and continues through the corporate policies of the mining, oil, and energy industries.

According to Belinda Morris, "Marginalization is as much a result of colonialism as it is corporatism. One is social, the other economic. From the indigenous standpoint … the struggle does not and cannot exist in a vacuum, it must not allow itself to be subsumed by a movement that, to date, has shown little—if any—recognition of it, let alone respect for it."

As evidenced by their proposed list of demands, the OWS movement has no intentions of recognizing indigenous concerns or demarginalizing indigenous peoples in the United States. And that's because the mindset of the majority of occupiers is an intergenerational extension of a colonized mindset. In her Foreword to The New Resource Wars, Winona LaDuke provides insight into the colonized mindset. Regarding "Industrial society, or as some call it, 'settler society,'" LaDuke writes:



"In industrial society, 'man's dominion over nature,' has preempted the perception of Natural Law as central. Linear concepts of 'progress' dominate this worldview. From this perception of 'progress' as an essential component of societal development comes the perception of the natural world as a wilderness. This, of course, is the philosophical underpinning of colonialism and 'conquest.'"

This way of thinking is also present in scientific systems of thought like 'Darwinism,' as well as in social interpretations of human behavior such as 'Manifest Destiny,' with its belief in some god-ordained right of some humans to dominate the earth. These concepts are central to the … present state of relations between native and settler in North America and elsewhere."

The "settler society" that LaDuke refers to isn't from the historical past. It is present in non-indigenous society today. It is the mentality of this "settler society" permeating the mindset of the OWS movement. Their demands aren't about decolonization. Rather, their demands are about wanting a share of the profits, profits that come from the rape and plunder of the earth and our indigenous homelands.

This isn't to say that the OWS movement lacks merit. Economic inequities, corporate greed, the mortgage crisis, the unequal distribution of wealth are legitimate concerns. But those concerns have nothing to do with decolonization no environmental justice. As such, the 99% slogan is not inclusive of the myriad of environmental problems that plague both indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in the US.

Wendy Makoons Geniusz writes: "Because of the colonization process, many of us no longer see the strength of our indigenous knowledge. Our minds have been colonized along with our land, resources, people. For us Anishinaabeg, the decolonization of gikendaasowin (Anishinaabe knowledge) is also part of the decolonization of ourselves."

Geniusz points out that biskaabiiyang means to "to return to ourselves, to decolonize ourselves."

For many of us, biskaabiiyang is a lifelong process. It is a journey to heal our traumatized inner spirit of the historical past and the historical present. For many of us, our involvement in the struggles that our communities and our homelands face is a part of that healing journey. From this prism, the Occupy movement can be viewed as recognizing the national trauma endured under Corporate America.

But it isn't about the biskaabiiyang of the American people. Rather, it's about the collusion of corporations and the government to keep us under the yoke of economic inequity and the public's demand for reformation of a corrupt capitalist system that has infested the world under the umbrella of globalization. And it is the reformation of this system that has led to the present movement of people on the streets of America.

However, should any kind of reformation occur, indigenous peoples will undoubtedly continue to be marginalized and their natural resources exploited. And, as before, we will continue our struggles in the shadows of democracy.

We will need to do this lest we silently vanish from existence.

Robert Desjarlait is from the Red Lake Ojibwe Reservation. He is a free-lance journalist and has been published on issues regarding Indian country. He is a co-founder of Protect Our Manoomin, an Anishinaabe grassroots organization battling against copper mining in northern Minnesota.

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The Occupation

[column written 10/7/11] © 2011 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

In Lower Manhattan's Zucotti Park (renamed 'Liberty Square' by the demonstrators), the cast of thousands swell in rebellion against the betrayals by the banks, Wall Street's relentless greed, the plague of joblessness and the craven servility of the political class--both Republicans and Democrats--to their moneyed masters.

In short, the central focus of their protest is capitalism--greed writ large, especially since the economic tumble of Fall 2008.

Begun mostly by unemployed youth, it has drawn the presence and support of public workers, urban youth, students, teachers and a considerable number of gray hairs.

That's because social discontent is so widespread that it is spreading like wildfire. Wall Street, and then, days later, Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and beyond.

Demonstrations springing up like mushrooms after a storm, in protest to the crony capitalism brought to us by the professional sellouts called politicians.

And (speaking of), like vampires at a blood bank, politicians are descending on Wall St., to try to suck the life out of a movement that could threaten their monopoly on power. For, politician's only interest in this protest is to exploit it, to weaken it, while they continue to serve the very bosses the protestors oppose. You can count the number of politicians who truly oppose Wall St. on one hand--and still have a few fingers left.

Perhaps America's greatest white revolutionary, abolitionist John Brown; had little regard for politicians. He told his family: "A professional politician … you never could trust; for even if he had convictions, he was always ready to sacrifice his principles for his advantage."

Think about that. Now think about every politician you know.

See?

This is People's Power, sparked, in part by the mass protests in Cairo and Wisconsin. Other sparks were the Troy Davis injustice, the assault on several demonstrators by New York cops, the repression on the poor and working class by the political class, and discontent with the long, wasted years at mindless wars abroad.

This is people's power.

May it remain so.

[Sources: DuBois, W. E. B., John Brown: A Biography. (Armonk,NY/London:M. E. Sharpe, 1997
p.83. Wells, Robert, Passing Through to the Territory (Historical novel extending the life and times of Huck Finn, Jim--and John Brown!) (forthcoming, ca. 2011-12), p.224 (mss.).

25th Anniversary of ARA-LA/PART

Next year, 2012, marks the 25th anniversary of People Against Racist Terror, now Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles (ARA-LA/PART), and ***Turning the Tide*** begins its 25th year of publication. PART was launched in 1987, in response to a scheduled appearance in the L.A. area of convicted Birmingham church bomber J.B. Stoner. Stoner was a former Klansman and fugitive who, having served a prison sentence, was on a national tour for his so-called Crusade Against Corruption, seeking to attract white youth involved in the then-new phenomenon of nazi-oriented boneheads. As a former member of the LA chapter of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee, which had folded when most of the other members left Los Angeles, Michael Novick had continued to do opposition research on white power groups in southern CA, and caught wind of Stoner's plans. "I blew the whistle on the activities, scheduled for the Glendale Public Library and a nearby Holiday Inn, and with a few friends, launched People Against Racist Terror as a vehicle for organizing a counter-protest. Our slogan was 'Be PART of the Solution!'"

The exposure caused the library to cancel (I believe they shut down for 'security reasons'). But several thousand people turned out in response to the call to oppose Stoner and the boneheads, many local residents of Glendale and lookey-loos, but many others from around the L.A. basin who wanted to express their opposition. We marched over to the nearby hotel where Stoner had booked a room and still planned to proceed. Several nazi-skins on their way in were physically prevented from entering by angry protesters, and sent packing. The Glendale PD declared the protest an illegal assembly, closed several off-ramps on the Glendale Freeway to prevent further protesters from arriving on the scene, and actually called out a water cannon (shades of Stoner's Klan background) to disperse the crowd, although they did not actually fire it. Several arrests were made, including of one of the organizers, and as it turns out, Stoner's event was also disrupted from within the hotel, where a demonstrator had strategically rented a room in advance.

The following year, PART issued Volume 1 Number 1 of "Turning the Tide," then subtitled "L.A. Anti-Racism Newsletter" as a single sheet broadside related to the revived trial of Tom Metzger of the White Aryan Resistance for a triple cross-burning some years before in the San Fernando Valley. (Charges had been twice dropped and reinstated.)

We need your support

To mark this dual anniversary, ARA-LA/PART will be holding two major fund-raising activities in the coming year. In May, we will hold a "first annual" fund-raising dinner honoring local anti-racists in memory of John Brown, martyred abolitionist who was born on May 9, 1800. We intend to publish a commemorative dinner journal, and are seeking sponsors and donors whose ads will help to finance TTT and its distribution to hundreds of prisoners. In the fall, we will be publishing a special commemorative 25th anniversary well-bound issue of ***Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education***, featuring excerpts from the previous quarter-century of publication, and we are seeking ads and solidarity messages to pay for printing and distributing the issue. Please get in touch if you would like to participate in either of these projects.

Subscribe or Donate Now!

What Do They Want?

column written 11/2/11 (c) 2011 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

With few exceptions, major corporate outlets, networks, national newspapers and the like, have treated the month-long protests such as Occupy Wall Street as something akin to a UFO: odd, alien and inscrutable.

From microphones nationwide come questions: "What do they want?"; "What are their demands?" or, "Why are they doing this?"

By so doing, they have spread more confusion than information, and performed a serious disservice to their listeners, viewers and readers.

They have become purveyors of misinformation, and are, at the very least, disingenuous.

For, the Occupation movement could not be more clear about their goals and objectives. Indeed, within days of the demonstration's debut, they published a 4-page, full-color newspaper, called The Occupied Wall Street Journal, with a statement on page 3 announcing exactly what brought them together, and why.

It's titled: "Declaration of the Occupation", which in language and tone rings with similarities to the Declaration of Independence. It speaks of "solidarity" with others, and seeks an end to the "mass injustice" being faced by millions of Americans (and others) who "feel wronged by the corporate forces of the world."

In a nutshell, they speak out against corporate greed, illegal foreclosures, bailouts for Wall St., discrimination, exorbitant student loans, political corruption, environmental degradation, the wars abroad--and the corporate control of the media which "keeps people misinformed and fearful.

Huh. There it is. It ain't rocket science. It couldn't be clearer. It's given away freely.

If media couldn't take the time to travel to downtown Manhattan (or their own down towns in over a thousand cities!) to pick up a copy, they could see it on their computer, at: www.occupywallst.com.

Seriously. Now, I don't have computer access. It's not only disallowed on Death Row--it ain't in Pennsylvania prisons period. Yet, a fellow mailed me a copy of The Occupied Wall Street Journal. And I read it.

Why couldn't reporters for major media outlets have done so?

Unless they wanted to "keep people misinformed?"

Send our brotha some LOVE and LIGHT at:
Mumia Abu-Jamal, AM 8335, SCI-Greene,
175 Progress Drive, Waynesburg, PA 15370

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK

FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) WE GO WHERE THEY GO: Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US: This doesn't mean we never go to court, but the cops uphold white supremacy and the status quo, They attack us and everyone that resists oppression. We must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS: In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people.

We want a free classless society.

WE INTEND TO WIN!

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Key Documents of the Occupy Wall Street Movement:

Principles of Solidarity

What follows is a living document that will be revised through democratic process of General Assembly

On September 17, 2011, people from all across the United States of America and the world came to protest the blatant injustices of our times perpetuated by the economic and political elites. On the 17th we as individuals rose up against political disenfranchisement and social and economic injustice. We spoke out, resisted, and successfully occupied Wall Street.

Today, we proudly remain in Liberty Square constituting ourselves as autonomous political beings engaged in non-violent civil disobedience and building solidarity based on mutual respect, acceptance, and love. It is from these reclaimed grounds that we say to all Americans and to the world, Enough! How many crises does it take?

We are the 99% and we have moved to reclaim our mortgaged future.Through a direct democratic process, we have come together as individuals and crafted these principles of solidarity, which are points of unity that include but are not limited to:

Engaging in direct and transparent participatory democracy;
Exercising personal and collective responsibility;
Recognizing individuals' inherent privilege and the influence it has on all interactions;
Empowering one another against all forms of oppression;
Redefining how labor is valued;
The sanctity of individual privacy;
The belief that education is human right; and
Endeavoring to practice and support wide application of open source.

We are daring to imagine a new socio-political and economic alternative that offers greater possibility of equality. We are consolidating the other proposed principles of solidarity, after which demands will follow.

Declaration of the Occupation of New York City

This document was accepted by the NYC General Assembly on September 29, 2011
As we gather together in solidarity to express a feeling of mass injustice, we must not lose sight of what brought us together. We write so that all people who feel wronged by the corporate forces of the world can know that we are your allies.

As one people, united, we acknowledge the reality: that the future of the human race requires the cooperation of its members; that our system must protect our rights, and upon corruption of that system, it is up to the individuals to protect their own rights, and those of their neighbors; that a democratic government derives its just power from the people, but corporations do not seek consent to extract wealth from the people and the Earth; and that no true democracy is attainable when the process is determined by economic power. We come to you at a time when corporations, which place profit over people, self-interest over justice, and oppression over equality, run our governments. We have peaceably assembled here, as is our right, to let these facts be known.

They have taken our houses through an illegal foreclosure process, despite not having the original mortgage.
They have taken bailouts from taxpayers with impunity, and continue to give Executives exorbitant bonuses.
They have perpetuated inequality and discrimination in the workplace based on age, the color of one's skin, sex, gender identity and sexual orientation.
They have poisoned the food supply through negligence, and undermined the farming system through monopolization.
They have profited off of the torture, confinement, and cruel treatment of countless animals, and actively hide these practices.
They have continuously sought to strip employees of the right to negotiate for better pay and safer working conditions.
They have held students hostage with tens of thousands of dollars of debt on education, which is itself a human right.
They have consistently outsourced labor and used that outsourcing as leverage to cut workers' healthcare and pay.
They have influenced the courts to achieve the same rights as people, with none of the culpability or responsibility.
They have spent millions of dollars on legal teams that look for ways to get them out of contracts in regards to health insurance.
They have sold our privacy as a commodity.
They have used the military and police force to prevent freedom of the press.
They have deliberately declined to recall faulty products endangering lives in pursuit of profit.
They determine economic policy, despite the catastrophic failures their policies have produced and continue to produce.
They have donated large sums of money to politicians, who are responsible for regulating them.
They continue to block alternate forms of energy to keep us dependent on oil.
They continue to block generic forms of medicine that could save people's lives or provide relief in order to protect investments that have already turned a substantial profit.
They have purposely covered up oil spills, accidents, faulty bookkeeping, and inactive ingredients in pursuit of profit.
They purposefully keep people misinformed and fearful through their control of the media.
They have accepted private contracts to murder prisoners even when presented with serious doubts about their guilt.
They have perpetuated colonialism at home and abroad.
They have participated in the torture and murder of innocent civilians overseas.
They continue to create weapons of mass destruction in order to receive government contracts.*

To the people of the world,
We, the New York City General Assembly occupying Wall Street in Liberty Square, urge you to assert your power. Exercise your right to peaceably assemble; occupy public space; create a process to address the problems we face, and generate solutions accessible to everyone. To all communities that take action and form groups in the spirit of direct democracy, we offer support, documentation, and all of the resources at our disposal. Join us and make your voices heard!

***These grievances are not all-inclusive.**

Statement of Autonomy

Passed by the General Assembly at Occupy Wall Street

Occupy Wall Street is a people's movement. It is party-less, leaderless, by the people and for the people. It is not a business, a political party, an advertising campaign or a brand. It is not for sale.

We welcome all, who, in good faith, petition for a redress of grievances through non-violence. We provide a forum for peaceful assembly of individuals to engage in participatory as opposed to partisan debate and democracy. We welcome dissent.

Any statement or declaration not released through the General Assembly and made public online at www.nycga.net should be considered independent of Occupy Wall Street.

We wish to clarify that Occupy Wall Street is not and never has been affiliated with any established political party, candidate or organization. Our only affiliation is with the people.

The people who are working together to create this movement are its sole and mutual caretakers. If you have chosen to devote resources to building this movement, especially your time and labor, then it is yours.

Any organization is welcome to support us with the knowledge that doing so will mean questioning your own institutional frameworks of work and hierarchy and integrating our principles into your modes of action. SPEAK WITH US, NOT FOR US.

Occupy Wall Street values collective resources, dignity, integrity and autonomy above money. We have not made endorsements. All donations are accepted anonymously and are transparently allocated via consensus by the General Assembly or the Operational Spokes Council.

We acknowledge the existence of professional activists who work to make our world a better place. If you are representing, or being compensated by an independent source while participating in our process, please disclose your affiliation at the outset. Those seeking to capitalize on this movement or undermine it by appropriating its message or symbols are not a part of Occupy Wall Street.

We stand in solidarity. We are Occupy Wall Street.

Decolonize Wall Street:

Open Letter to Occupy Wall Street Activists

Thank you for your courage. Thank you for making an attempt to improve the situation in what is now called the United States. Thank you for your commitment to peace and non-violence. Thank you for the sacrifices you are making. Thank you.

There's just one thing. I am not one of the 99 percent that you refer to. And, that saddens me. Please don't misunderstand me. I would like to be one of the 99 percent... but you've chosen to exclude me. Perhaps it was unintentional, but, I've been excluded by you. In fact, there are millions of us indigenous people who have been excluded from the Occupy Wall Street protest. Please know that I suspect that it was an unintentional exclusion on your part. That is why I'm writing to you. I believe that you can make this right. (I hope you're still smiling.)

It seems that ever since we indigenous people have discovered Europeans and invited them to visit with us here on our land, we've had to endure countless '-isms' and religions and programs and social engineering that would "fix" us. Protestantism, Socialism, Communism, American Democracy, Christianity, Boarding Schools, Residential Schools,... well, you get the idea. And, it seems that these so-called enlightened strategies were nearly always enacted and implemented and pushed upon us without our consent. And, I'll assume that you're aware of how it turned out for us. Yes. Terribly.

Which brings me back to your mostly-inspiring Occupy Wall Street activities. On September 22nd, with great excitement, I eagerly read your "one demand" statement. Hoping and believing that you enlightened folks fighting for justice and equality and an end to imperialism, etc., etc., would make mention of the fact that the very land upon which you are protesting does not belong to you - that you are guests upon that stolen indigenous land. I had hoped mention would be made of the indigenous nation whose land that is. I had hoped that you would address the centuries-long history that we indigenous peoples of this continent have endured being subject to the countless '-isms' of do-gooders claiming to be building a "more just society," a "better world," a "land of freedom" on top of our indigenous societies, on our indigenous lands, while destroying and/or ignoring our ways of life. I had hoped that you would acknowledge that, since you are settlers on indigenous land, you need and want our indigenous consent to your building anything on our land - never mind an entire society. See where I'm going with this? I hope you're still smiling. We're still friends, so don't sweat it. I believe your hearts are in the right place. I know that this whole genocide and colonization thing causes all of us lots of confusion sometimes. It just seems to me that you're unknowingly doing the same thing to us that all the colonizers before you have done: you want to do stuff on our land without asking our permission.

But, fear not my friends. We indigenous people have a sense of humor. So, I thought I might make a few friendly suggestions which may help to "fix" the pro-colonialism position in which you now (hopefully, unintentionally) find yourselves. (Please note my use of the word "fix" in the previous sentence. That's an attempt at a joke. You can refer to the third paragraph if you'd like an explanation.)

By the way, I'm just one indigenous person. I represent no one except myself. I'm acting alone in writing this letter. Perhaps none of my own Nishnaabe people will support me in having written this. Perhaps some will. I respect their opinions either way. I love my Nishnaabe people always. I am simply trying to do something good - same as all of you at the Occupy Wall Street protest in what is now called New York.

So, here goes. (You're still smiling, right?)

1) Acknowledge that the United States of America is a colonial country, a country of settlers, built upon the land of indigenous nations; and/or...

2) Demand immediate freedom for indigenous political prisoner Leonard Peltier; and/or...

3) Demand that the colonial government of the United States of America honor all treaties signed with all indigenous nations whose lands are now collectively referred to as the "United States of America"; and/or...

4) Make some kind of mention that you are indeed aware that you are settlers and that you are not intending to repeat the mistakes of all of the settler do-gooders that have come before you. In other words, that you are willing to obtain the consent of indigenous people before you do anything on indigenous land.

I hope you find this list useful. I eagerly await your response, my friends.

Miigwech! (~"Thank you!")
JohnPaul Montano

http://twitter.com/jpmontano
http://unsettlingamerica.wordpress.com/2011/10/03/decolonize-wall-street/

(UN)OCCUPY ALBUQUERQUE

Occupy movement in New Mexico finds new name out of respect for Native Americans

By Nicolas Mendoza from The New Mexico Independent

In response to concerns over the term "Occupy Albuquerque", the protest movement has renamed itself "(Un)occupy Albuquerque." The decision was made in a general assembly meeting of protesters at the University of New Mexico campus.

As the New Mexico Independent reported last week, some of the '99 percenters' objected to the association of the word 'Occupy' with what one Daily Kos contributor called "…five-hundred years of forced occupation of [Native American] lands, resources, cultures, power, and voices by the imperial powers of both Spain and the United States. A big chunk of the 99 percent has been served pretty well by that arrangement. A smaller chunk hasn't."

The 'Occupy' movement has emphasized its opposition to those in the top 1 percent of the country's income distribution, as well as the financial sector, which in recent decades has drastically increased its share of the total national income.

But this emphasis has meant that many other societal tensions and grievances that have traditionally preoccupied left-wing and anti-establishment movements, such as those of the Native American community and other racial minorities, have not been a significant focus of the '99 percenters.'

According to the U.S. Census, 4.8 percent of Bernalillo County and 9.4 percent of New Mexicans identify as American Indian. Most likely that underestimates the proportion of New Mexicans with some connection to the Native American community: 3.7 percent of New Mexicans are of more than one race, and 47.9 percent of the state's population is Hispanic, and both of those categories are likely to contain many people who are of at least some Native American descent.

The Game of Colonialism: DECOLONIZE WALL STREET NOW!!!

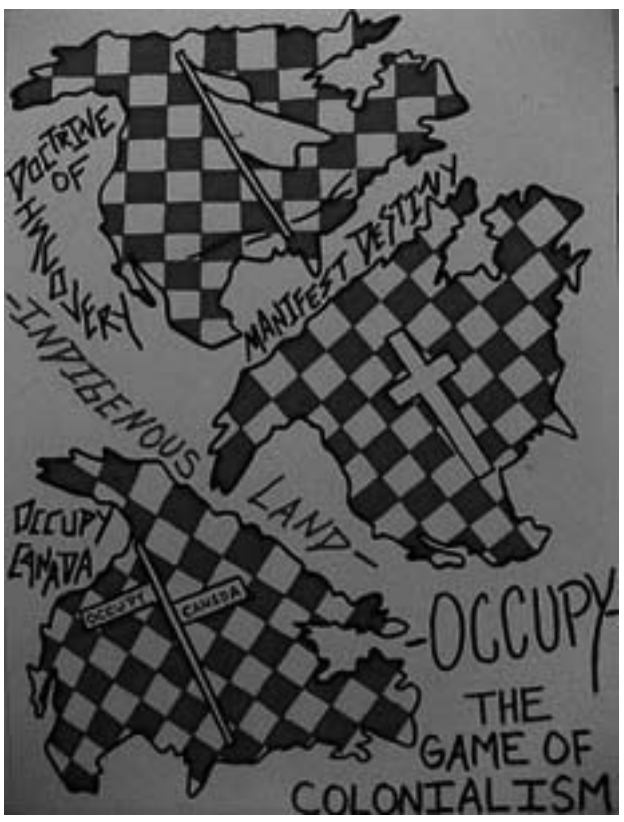
http://ernestoyerena.tumblr.com/post/10922151725/decolonize-wallstreet-now-before-the-dutch

Before the Dutch there was, is and forever there shall be the Algonquian Nation. The Canarsie People were of the Lenape tribe elders of the Algonquian lineage. Manhattan is Algonquian word meaning "Island of Hills" and Long Island was once called Paumonauk meaning "Fish Shaped Island". On May 4, 1626 at Shorakkopoch, on Manhattan ,Peter Minuit of the Dutch West India Company "purchased' the Manhattan Island from the Canarsie People for a load of Cloth, beads, hatchets and other odds and ends worth 60 Dutch Guilders about 1 ½ in Silver. (60 Guilders=1 ½ pounds of Silver= $24 in the 19th century=$72 in 1992)

Dutch settlers then built a colony on Algonquian Land. Then to protect themselves from the Indigenous People they built a wall. The path had become a bustling commercial thoroughfare because it joined the banks of the East River with those of the Hudson River on the west. The path was named Wall Street. Early merchants built their warehouses and shops on this path, along with a city hall and a church. New York was the U.S. national capitol from 1785 until 1790 and Federal Hall was built on Wall Street. George Washington was inaugurated on the steps of this building.

A century later, In March, 1792, twenty-four of New York City's leading merchants met secretly at Corre's Hotel to discuss ways to bring order to the securities business and to wrest it from their competitors, the auctioneers. Two months later, on May 17, 1792, these merchants signed a document named the Buttonwood Agreement, named after their traditional meeting place, a buttonwood tree. The agreement called for the signers to trade securities only among themselves, to set trading fees, and not to participate in other auctions of securities. These twenty-four men had founded what was to become the New York Stock Exchange. The Exchange would later be located at 11 Wall Street.

The first stock exchange in America was founded in Philadelphia in 1790. The New York merchant group, realizing their stock exchange was in decline after the early tumult of revolutionary war bonds and stock in the Bank of the United States, sent an observer to Philadelphia in early 1817. Upon his return with news of the Philadelphia exchange, the New York Stock and Exchange Board was organized on March 8, 1817.



WHY PRISONS AND PRISONERS MATTER

Prisons and the millions who are imprisoned are a critical issue in this society for the 1% and for the 99%. They must be a vital area of concern for the OccupyWallStreet movement and especially here in OccupyLA. **HERE'S WHY:**

SOCIAL CONTROL:

Dostoyevsky said that you can best understand a society by looking inside its prisons. The US has the highest incarceration rate in the world. We have 5% of the global population, and 25% of all the prisoners. Prisons expose the brutal violence at the base of social control, the iron fist hidden by the velvet glove of elections and by the weapons of mass distraction. After the mass rebellions of the 60s and 70s, the 1% made a conscious decision to de-industrialize the US and drive poor people from the inner city – to the outskirts of the cities, as in Latin America and Africa, or into the concentration camps. Prison populations shot up from under 200,000 to over 2,600,000 and still rising. Millions more are in and out of jail, or under custodial control by the parole and probation systems. This has resulted in painful and massive destabilization of communities, especially communities of color, and affected millions more in families disrupted by having members imprisoned and moved far away. The police may be making nice today with us, but they function to criminalize people and send them to prison.

Here's the other 1% --
One percent of all adults in the United States are in prison or jail right now!

PRISONS FOR PROFIT:

Prisons and the war on crime were the leading edge of the wedge of privatization and reactionary corporate control of electoral politics. "War on crime" became the code word for racism, and tough-on-crime politics and politicians were used to break support for social liberation, human needs programs, and civil rights. ALEC, the right wing legislative think tank that has been writing state by state legislation attacking unions and migrant rights cut its teeth supporting prison privatization. Prison privatization and using prison construction and supply contracts to tap public funding for private corporations set the pattern now being used to privatize schools, social services and even military and covert operations.

POLITICAL PRISONERS:

COINTELPRO – the FBI Counter Intelligence Program -- was a domestic counter-insurgency war strategy directed against the blossoming social, political and economic liberation movements of the 60s and 70s. Black Panthers and other Black freedom organizations, the American Indian Movement, the Brown Berets, Young Lords, SDS, Asian and other effective dissident, serve-the-people groups were criminalized and attacked. Many are still locked down 30 or 40 years later for their uncompromising resistance. This setback allowed the government and the corporations to strengthen their control over the rest of us, cut back on the social safety net, and begin mass incarceration. They're still doing it today with the Black Riders Liberation Party, Carlos Montes, the "Green Scare," etc.

EXPOSING THE DUOPOLY:

Democrats and Republicans alike have been totally sold out to the prison-industrial complex. The CA prison guards union (CCPOA) is the biggest political donor and lobbyist in this state and calls the shots. A couple of years ago, under Schwarzeneggar and Democratic leader Fabian Nunez, the legislature passed overnight and without debate a bill adding 59,000 MORE prison "beds" in the state with the largest prison population. While Jerry Brown was pushing his austerity budget cuts, he cut a backroom deal with CCPOA to sweeten their retirement package with a multi-million dollar bonus that he slipped into the state budget.

MODEL OF RESISTANCE:

The prisons are becoming schools of revolutionary social transformation. Thousands of prisoners are on hunger strike right now in CA against the brutal and torturous conditions of the "special housing units" – isolation units designed to break people down and keep the lid on all the prisoners by creating prisons within a prison. The SHU prisoners' example of inter-racial solidarity and putting their bodies on the line challenges all of us to our best efforts.

WHAT WE CAN DO:

Act in solidarity with the prisoners' resistance, reach out to their families, connect the Occupy movement to those communities in struggle, educate ourselves about Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Oscar Lopez Rivera, Assata Shakur and other political prisoners and exiles. Check out **www.thejerichomovement.com** for information on the amnesty movement and opposition to the prison-industrial complex.

Jericho Amnesty Movement LA chapter meets on Sat., Dec. 17 (and 3rd Sat. each month) at SoCal Library, 6120 S. Vermont in L.A. The Jericho National meeting will take place on February 18-19, 2012.

Occupy, Community Support, Helps win Release of Gen. T.A.C.O. of Black Riders

Similar to what occurred during the Los Angeles trial of Officer Mehserle for the murder of Oscar Grant, the state attempted to lock up General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out) of the Black Riders Liberation Party, a new-generation Black Panther Party for Self Defense formation, in the period of time during which the prison hunger strikers began a second strike and Occupy LA launched. He was picked up on the streets of the Crenshaw district along with BRLP Chief of Staff sister LaaLaa (who is also national youth coordinator of the Jericho Amnesty Movement to free all political prisoners). LaaLaa was released, but parole authorities held T.A.C.O. for the "crime" of political association and expression, allegedly prevented by his parole conditions from the Black Rider 3 case, even though during that case, the judge threw out a prosecution effort to get gang enhancement charges placed on T.A.C.O., rejecting the state's allegation that the Riders are a gang.

Once again, the state miscalculated, as strong support was built for T.A.C.O. by Occupy the Hood and Anti-Racist Action, among other groupings. The OccupyLA General Assembly passed a resolution calling for his release, and delegations were sent from the Occupation to two separate parole hearings held nearby on Bauchet St. across from the Twin Towers. Although the state kept moving T.A.C.O. to different jails within the county system (the largest jail system in the world), this did not deter supporters from keeping in touch and only served to allow T.A.C.O. to connect with and voice the discontents of the masses of Black and Brown locked down in the jails. This occurred amid embarrassing disclosures of unchecked violence by deputies in the jails, including incidents corroborated by the FBI smuggling a cell phone to a confidential informant prisoner assisting the feds in probing the deputies.

The BRLP with support from Occupy LA, GrassrootsKPFK and others were able to obtain independent private counsel for T.A.C.O. at his parole hearing, along with strong community support inside and out. This resulted in T.A.C.O.'s release back to "minimum security" on the streets, though still with a 21st Century slave shackle GPS tracking device on his ankle, constant harassment by cops and PDs and new severe restrictions on his housing and association with other Black Riders, which has resulted in the dispersal of one of their housing commune and made additional expenses necessary. But the release was a clear victory for the people over the state who had intended to send him to state prison for a year. This came despite the personal intervention of LAPD Chief Charlie Beck, who wrote a letter to the head of the state Parole Dept. in Sacramento, libeling T.A.C.O. as planning to kill cops. This only serves to underscore the seriousness with which the LAPD and other repressive agencies take the BRLP. Call them to offer you support at 323- 289-4457. There is an ongoing need for material aid and solidarity!

Turning the Tide:

Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

needs your help!

Postal and printing costs are up. Dozens of new prisoners ask to get free subs every month. Over 1500 copies of each edition are sent in to prisoners. Friends of ARA-LA/PART are either in prison, or facing prosecution for anti-fascist political activity. We had to switch to quarterly publication because of a lack of sufficient funds and staffing.

What can you do?

We rely entirely on subscriptions and reader donations to publish. We've been coming out for 22 years, distributing thousands of copies free to prisoners, anti-racists and other concerned people without partisan subsidy, government funds or corporate grants. We depend entirely on you, the reader, to keep printing hard-hitting anti-racist, anti-colonialist analysis.

If you like what you're reading –
Don't delay -- Subscribe or donate today:
$16 individual/$26 institutional or international annual subscription
(for 4 quarterly issues)

Pay to: Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232
(no checks to Turning the Tide, please!)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

ATTENTION PRISON SUBSCRIBERS! TTT is a small project with few resources: **we can't provide books or legal aid, or investigate individuals' innocence**.

Bulk orders of "Turning the Tide," including this special "OCCUPY" issue are available in the US only for $10 for 50 copies, payable to Anti-Racist Action at the above address.

This public statement was developed as a proposal by the LA General Assembly and passed with full consensus at GA on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2011. The language, ideas and grievances were culled from the minutes of two special City Liaison Committee Meetings, two General Assemblies devoted to the issue, one meeting with the Demands & Objectives Committee, and consultation with Media and PR Committees. They were widely circulated and amended by the online community of occupiers, and adapted into its current form by the General Assembly on the night of their final adoption.

The General Assembly's Response to the City of Los Angeles:
PARA TODOS TODO, PARA NOSOTROS NADA
FOR EVERYONE, EVERYTHING, FOR US, NOTHING

As a collective, Occupy Los Angeles would like to express their rejection of the City of Los Angeles's alleged proposal that we leave City Hall by November 28th, 2011, in exchange for an apparently now rescinded offer of a 10,000 square foot building, farmland and 100 SRO beds for the homeless.

Occupy Los Angeles believes that as part of a global movement advocating direct, participatory democracy, and challenging economic and social injustices, our position is such that we cannot, in all good faith, accept further material benefit from City Hall at the taxpayer's expense without seriously compromising our beliefs, our desire for global change, and our commitment to our inherent human rights to free speech and assembly protected in this country by First Amendment Rights. The 1 percent should be paying for any services used by the Occupy Movement, not taxpayers.

In the spirit of inclusivity and transparency which is so dear to our movement, Occupy Los Angeles extends an invitation to Mayor Villaraigosa and the City Council to attend our General Assemblies at the City Hall Occupation if he wishes to discuss these and other matters in a direct, democratic and horizontal way. Mayor Villaraigosa must speak out against the violent actions towards our brothers and sisters, declare the actions of other cities to be unjust, and stand before us equally at a General Assembly. Occupy Los Angeles believes that until this happens, we should have no more closed-door discussions regarding our continuing occupation of City Hall.

The City Council – in line with government in general – is an authority which is more accountable to developers and corporations than the public. The very act of the Los Angeles City Council requesting the physical removal of Los Angeles Occupiers without redressing the grievances which were specifically referenced in the inclusion of our adopted 'Declaration of the Occupation of New York City', and in the City Council's '1st Amendment Rights / Occupy Los Angeles / Responsible Banking Resolution' — is in effect supporting the removal of all Occupations from public space by any means. We cannot negotiate with such an institution without undermining our sister occupations across the globe who are suffering from oppressive force and attacks upon their inherent human rights to free speech and assembly, protected in this country under the First Amendment. We refer here to episodes in Oakland, Boston, New York, Portland, UC Davis and San Francisco, to name but a few. We refer to those further afield, in Tahrir Square in Egypt, in Madrid, Greece, London and more. Teargas, pepper spray, beatings, jail, suppression and intimidation have been used as a coercive method of silencing our movement and our desire for global change.

We reject outright the City's attempts to lure us out of City Hall and into negotiations by offering us nebulous, non-transparent and unconfirmed offers which fail to even begin to address our local grievances. We will continue to occupy this space, in solidarity with our global movement, until the forces of the few are forced to capitulate to the power of the people.

When the following grievances have been addressed – grievances which we have agreed upon as a movement through our General Assembly as advancing our cause and providing for the people of Los Angeles – we as a movement will be happy to initiate dialogue with the Mayor and Los Angeles City Council. An office space of 10,000 square feet would not have addressed these grievances. While the grievances listed below are localized, we believe that they promote the underlying foundations and principles of our movement, which include, but are not limited to: providing for basic, fundamental and inalienable human rights such as shelter, food, healthcare, freedom of choice, sexual orientation, gender equality and education — and the right most paramount to a free and democratic society — the right to self-govern. Detailed demands which encompass our greater world view will be released at a later date by our Demands and Objectives Committee through the General Assembly.

GRIEVANCES NOT ADDRESSED

A moratorium on all foreclosures in the City of Los Angeles. The City of Los Angeles to divest from all major banks, and money to be removed from politics.

A citywide effort undertaken to solve the homelessness problem which has led to 18,000 homeless people sleeping on Skid Row every night. Rehabilitation and housing must be provided for all homeless people.

South Central Farm to be returned to the same LA community from which it was taken, and all other vacant and distressed land be open for the community use, and money to the tune of 1 million dollars – taken from Skid Row and given to a multi-million dollar NFL firm – to be returned to Skid Row.

Los Angeles to be declared a sanctuary city for the undocumented, deportations to be discontinued and cooperation with immigration authorities be ended – including the turning in of arrestees' names to immigration authorities.

All forms of weaponry used by multiple law enforcement officials – including, but not limited, to rubber bullets, pepper spray, verbal abuse, arrest, foam batons, long-range acoustic devices and more – are not to be used on those exercising their First Amendment Rights to petition our government for redress of grievances. We do not accept interference with freedom of the press and the public to document police actions in public spaces. We will not tolerate brutality.

We assert our right to an open plaza on the South Side of City Hall for people to peacefully assemble, voice grievances, speak freely, hold our General Assembly and come to the people's consensus 24 hours a day if needed.

The City of Los Angeles to pressure the State to start a convention, as provided for in the Constitution, to remove corporate personhood and money from politics at a national level.

The City of Los Angeles to begin a dialogue at the State and Federal level on the issues of student debt and tuition hikes.

No cutbacks in city services or attacks on the wages, work conditions and pensions of city employees.

A world class transit system which addresses our debilitating traffic problem and restores the quality of life in Los Angeles.

We conclude, as a General Assembly, by hereby renaming City Hall Park - **SOLIDARITY PARK**!

Corporate Media Whitewash Rights Violations, Police Abuse

by Ruth Fowler, an Occupier with Occupy LA

Facts so far are: a ruthlessly efficient miltary operation comprised of 1400 riot cops armed with tear gas canisters and batons, in which people who left City Hall as ordered were chased down, beaten and arrested, was roundly praised by the mainstream media as "peaceful" or "restrained" and "professional." This ignores the police brutality we witnessed, including beatings, unlawful arrests and rubber bullets used on protestors and non-corporate media, while the legitimacy of the second announcement of 'unlawful assembly' called at First and Main, and resulting in numerous more arrests, is still called into question.

A media pool was established covertly, citing non-existent penal codes to silence the press, while media in the pool were working for the LAPD.

As a result, KCAL9 was running an awesome aerial live stream of the massive deployment of 1,000-plus LAPD officers from Dodger Stadium to City Hall. But then -- get this -- they reportedly stopped the stream because they had "made an agreement with LAPD not to reveal their tactics," and wanted to protect the integrity of the operation.

The Mayor and LAPD appeared on CNN Live to deny all this, naming my blog and saying that it was untrue. Meanwhile, the 292 arrestees' bail was set extortionately high at 5k. Occupiers were handcuffed for 7 hours and held for over two days without charges. Our TRO was thrown out of court as the judge claimed Carol Sobel of the National Lawyers' Guild had not filed in time.

The next day, Occupiers returning to the West Steps of Solidarity Park from Pershing Square were surrounded by riot cops who seemed on the verge of making arrests. Once they dispersed, and our General Assembly of approximately 300 people commenced, Occupiers were told by the fifty or so remaining police officers surrounding City Hall, that if we did not disperse by 10:30 PM, they would call unlawful assembly and arrest us again. All arrestees released on OR today were warned that if they returned to City Hall, they would face arrest. A source from the mainstream media sent me this email:

Civil Rights Attorney Cynthia Anderson Barker says: "One condition of OR release is a stay away order from City Hall. We can fight that as the case proceeds."

Forty Occupiers outside the City Metro Jail on Los Angeles and Temple, waiting to greet the arrestees this evening, were again surrounded by 50 police, despite being peaceful.

As the numbers of Occupiers across America who have now been jailed, tear gassed, beaten and subject to intimidation and violence in reaction to their peaceful protests reaches into the thousands., the Senate just passed a bill that allowed indefinite military detention without charges or trial of American citizens living within the US.

They are afraid of us. They are fighting us. That means we are winning.

Police evicting Occupy LA made nearly 300 arrests, many of them of people who had obeyed the order to disperse from the City Hall lawn. Bilal Ali, co-founder of Occupy the Hood, had ribs broken by police near Pershing Square, 5 blocks away. To contribute to bail and legal defense, go to https://www.wepay.com/donate/192938

PART's Perspective:

Occupation, Liberation, and Overcoming Contradictions Among the 99%

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***

Somewhat akin the occupation of Alcatraz Island more than four decades ago, Occupy Wall Street has stood the concept of "occupation" on its head. Groups on the left that were chanting "Money for jobs and education, not for war and occupation" have had to change the last word to "corporations."

The occupation of Alcatraz, however, was a clearly anti-colonial insurgency that helped spark the on-going struggle for indigenous sovereignty and self-determination that continues to this day and has reached global proportions. The Alcatraz occupation liberated both the shell of an imperial prison and the conquered and colonized land on which it was built. It occurred within a countrywide and worldwide upsurge of colonized and oppressed people and of a new generation claiming its place in the world. Though there are both generational and global parallels today, Occupy Wall Street distinguishes itself from the Alcatraz occupation in having neither explicitly anti-colonial nor categorically anti-capitalist politics.

Just a few short months ago, the editorial in ***Turning the Tide*** sought to understand the remarkable political quiescence in the US when the rest of the world was on fire. We analyzed the psychosocial breaks with the Empire that needed to occur to unleash the righteous anger and resistance of people in this country, particularly those of European descent. Immediately and unexpectedly, like Marx's "old mole" of revolution, the Occupy movement burst upon the scene to galvanize a broad sector of society.

It has ignited hopes of a rebirth of direct action and militant resistance, and spread back around the world as a beacon to some of the very struggles that inspired it. Yet ironically, dissent, resistance and direct action have spread like wildfire even as the consciousness and ideology of the Occupiers have yet to show signs of a thorough and fundamental break from the identification with the oppressor that has long held such resistance back. This is a measure of not only the grip of Empire and settler colonialism on US psyches, but also the depth of the economic crisis and contradictions in which that empire is ensnared. These are beginning to fray the ties that bind people in the US to our own oppressors no matter people's consciousness.

The question for all Occupiers, all attracted to and inspired by the Occupy movement, and especially for those who are revolutionary-minded, is how to overcome that contradiction between consciousness and practice. How can we not only sustain, but also build and advance the Occupy movement? How can we birth the methods, organizational forms, and strategies that will advance the Occupy movement, without killing the goose of horizontal inclusiveness – the 99% -- that has laid the golden egg of movement?

As always, a process of constructive criticism and self-criticism is necessary to identify strengths and overcome weaknesses. Studying not only its own brief history but also the rich historical record of previous errors and failures can best enable us to chart a path forward to Occupy 2.0. This applies the open source approach, of users collaboratively reshaping and recreating their tools and making them more usable, useful, and user-friendly through practice, the shared experience of bugs and glitches, and the discovery of new desirable features. At Occupy LA, it often seems that name-calling and email flame wars have been far more common than constructive criticism and self-criticism, so beginning to apply those methods will be a step forward in itself.

The bulk of this issue is dedicated to theme of decolonization, as has the bulk of the work and analysis of ARA-LA/PART over more than two decades. But understanding that many drawn into political activity by the Occupy movement may be reading this alone, or seeing ***TTT*** for the first time, I want to underscore the fundamental basis of that approach. You cannot understand, let alone transform, US society unless you grasp that it is an Empire -- a state, an economy and a social formation based on settler colonialism, land theft, genocide, and chattel slavery. These on-going realities have shaped ***and continue to shape*** class formation, national identity, and the nature of even dissident and oppositional struggles.

The Occupy movement is a case in point. First, Occupy bases itself on the goal or tactic of reappropriating the commons, countering the privatization and corporatization of public space. But there is a fundamental difference that must be acknowledged about the commons in the U.S. compared to most other societies. The commons in the US context is not the remnant of an earlier, land-based socio-economic formation like European feudalism or African communalism. It was created through acts of war, conquest and "ethnic cleansing" – the physical and cultural genocide of an indigenous population. Failing to recognize this makes Occupy complicit in this matrix and incapable of surmounting its contradictions.

Second, Occupy bases itself on the kind of rudimentary class-consciousness of income and wealth that has always been a hallmark of US settler colonialism. Applying the paradigm of the 99% on a global level would quickly illustrate the flimsiness of this thinking. The ***global*** 99% are almost entirely outside the United States with the exception of some sections of the urban and rural poor, of indigenous and other internally colonized people, the "Third World" that exists inside the "homeland" of the Empire. The World Institute for Development Economics Research reports that in 2000, the richest 1% of adults owned 40% of global assets. The richest 10% accounted for 85% of the world total, while the bottom half of the world adult population owned 1% of global wealth. A person in the US at the average income level of the ***bottom*** 10% of the US is better off economically than 2/3 of the world's population. On a global level, $2161 puts you into the top half of the world wealth distribution, and $61,000 puts you into the top 10%. These global realities are the reason the notion of a "middle class," and the call for "middle class jobs," is so deeply embedded among even working class people in the US and within the Occupy movement.

But these realities are changing, and the change is what accounts for the appeal of Occupy. Globalization and the "third-world-ization" of the US have meant that many people are experiencing the realities or the prospects of a permanent class fall. Class contradictions are inexorably reasserting themselves through a process of national "convergence" between rich and poor nations. More important, though per capita incomes of nations may rise, the lion's share of growth is absorbed by an international elite (still primarily and ostentatiously concentrated in the US and Europe, but including also Japan, parts of China, India and Indonesia, Israel and Arab elites, and Brazil). Correspondingly, growing sectors of the population in advanced industrial and settler colonial societies are experiencing losses even as the US continues to possess 25% of the world's wealth (no other country reaches the 5% level of concentration).

For some, this has meant belt-tightening, foreclosure and a first experience of protracted unemployment. In that sense, Occupy is a response to conditions and frustrations similar to those addressed by the Tea Party. But fortunately, Occupy has had a more spontaneous emergence than the Tea Party's astro-turf launch by the 1%, and it gains from its understanding of that phenomenon, as well as its intention to avoid being ensnared by the Democratic Party as the Tea Party was by the Republicans. Also, the Occupy movement's social base embraces organized and unorganized labor and other lower social strata. Because for others within the US, globalization means the deepening and extension of the conditions of homelessness, incarceration, malnutrition, and early death that illustrate the reality that some of the global 99% do in fact reside inside "the richest country in the world."

The Occupy movement is a cross-class movement despite its assertion that the 99% constitute a single social entity. Obscuring or denying class and colonial contradictions does not eliminate them; it makes them fester. Casting Occupy's demands or objectives within the appealing-on-the-surface proposition that "the richest country in the world" shouldn't allow foreclosures, or failing schools, or homelessness, is a recipe for failure. At a teach-in at Occupy Los Angeles, Robert Reich proclaimed that this struggle was not class war, and that the goal of the Occupy movement was to "save capitalism from itself." This call to save a system that is beyond repair or redemption, and whose further extension could well doom humanity and the biosphere, was greeted with silence (even from a crowd of listeners who were far older, whiter and better off than the Occupiers). Yet many in the Occupy movement want to limit its program to re-regulation of banks, taking money out of politics and ending corporate personhood.

The emphasis on the concentration of wealth and income inequality is a mixed bag. How much concentration in how few hands is "acceptable"? Would 20% of national wealth be big enough to satisfy the 1% and small enough to quiet the concerns of the 99%? To ask the question is to recognize that such demands amount to asking, in the words of Malcolm X, someone who has stabbed you in the back to pull the blade back out a few inches. The same can be said about some of the demands for democratization. Though Occupy responded angrily to the Military Authorization Bill that allows indefinite military detention of US citizens without trial, neither Occupy nor the Democrats seem to be talking any more about repealing the USA PATRIOT Act, closing Guantanamo or abolishing Homeland Security. Within Occupy LA (finally mostly disabused by reality) there was strong sentiment that "the police are part of the 99%." Reality has taught that they are the enforcers of the rule of the 1%.

Occupy must begin to put forward not demands (which presupposes they will be granted by those in power) but objectives – declarations of the kind of world we want and will build to replace a system that is rotten to the core. Economic objectives would include developing an ethical, environmentally sustainable, democratic economic system that serves to meet human needs and heal the environmental and social damage that the current system has caused. This would be a system that honors human dignity, labor and creativity, and that ensures first that all are well-fed, well-clothed and well-housed, with clean water, and that other human needs, such as education and health care, are met before any enjoy champagne and caviar. No amount of tinkering or reform could turn capitalism or colonialism into such a system.

Occupy LA has issued a call which is step in such a direction, to "Occupy the Ports" on Dec. 12. This is part of a day of action, march and boycott for migrant rights, full legalization and good jobs for all, and the beginning of a process of building towards a General Strike on May 1. That initiative is spreading with a call from Occupy Oakland to shut down the West Coast ports, and a General Strike call from Occupy DC.
Learn more about this from occupytheports@gmail.com and at **www.occupytheports.com**.
This begins to chart a path forward based on direct action, base-building and alliance building, engaging with other social forces seeking to transform this society – not from 'within', but from below. This will also help Occupiers and the movement as a whole to resist the schemes and seductions that seek to ensnare Occupy within electoral politics and in particular the Democratic Party, which has been the graveyard

of transformational and liberating social movements for generations.

Hopefully, the Occupy movement will become a pole of attraction that will instead pull labor, anti-war, environmental and other such movements out of their orbital path into the black hole of the Democrats before they pass the event horizon from which no light emerges. It can do so if Occupy aligns itself with the wretched of the earth, the most oppressed and exploited, the prisoners and ex-cons, the homeless, unemployed and welfare recipients, the indigenous, the anti-colonial, anti-capitalist struggles not only globally, but within the US itself.

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May 1st General Strike

FOR IM/MIGRANT RIGHTS:

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Create Living-wage Jobs and Guarantee the Right to Organize! Repeal NAFTA & CAFTA!
Reverse Global Warming and End Pollution of Air, Water and Soil!

FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE:

End all Overt and Covert U.S. Wars and Military Intervention!
Bring the Troops Home - Fulfill Promises to Veterans!
Respect Indigenous Sovereignty! End Racism and Colonialism!

FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES -- END THE POLICE STATE:

Repeal NDAA, Homeland Security and the USA PATRIOT Act!
End the Drug War! Stop Mass Incarceration and the New Jim Crow!
Stop Police Brutality and Prison Isolation! Free All Political Prisoners! Abolish the Death Penalty!

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ARA-LA/PART endorses the call: No Work-No School-No Shopping-No TV-All Out in the Streets!

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An Injury to One is an Injury to All

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GENERAL STRIKE MAY 1

Occupy May 1st General Strike

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror***

Despite the physical eviction of many occupations, the Occupy movement is starting to demonstrate its tenacity and to sink roots. Occupiers have not been deterred by their internal contradictions or political diversity. In the face of police brutality and numerous arrests around the country, Occupiers continue to meet, study, and communicate. Adhering to principles of transparent horizontal democracy and consensus decision-making, they are still able to take significant actions. This is a testament to the depth of the systemic contradictions that are producing their opposition. It also reflects the rapid learning curve precipitated by both engagement in struggle and the technology and ideology of "open source." The same leaps in information processing that have generated unprecedented productivity and eliminated tens of thousands of jobs even during the "recovery" are now fueling the development of political insight and solidarity. Meanwhile, the economic realities manifested in the Census analysis that shows almost half the US population living in or near poverty have underscored the need for radical approaches.

In December, we published a special "Occupy" edition of ***Turning the Tide***, (on-line at www.antiracist.org) focusing on the importance of anti-colonial politics. We identified the necessity to address issues of indigenous sovereignty and settler colonialism. This is particularly important because Occupy Wall Street and the spontaneous outpouring of resistance it inspired, base themselves on the concept of re-occupying the "commons." Unlike in Europe or Africa, where the commons is the remnant of earlier, land-based economic and social formations, the "commons" in the US context was based on the conquest and expropriation of indigenous land, and the collaboration of settlers in that process. This ongoing reality of land theft leaves an indelible imprint on class and national formation and identity in the US. In addressing foreclosures and other manifestations of class and colonial contradictions between the ruling elite and the 99%, for example, Occupiers must address the reality that in the US, all private property in land, all so-called "title," is based on that original theft.

The Occupy movement originated in a cross-class response to only the most recent manifestations of corporate greed and anti-democratic concentration of wealth and power. However, lessons being drawn from both state repression and internal political struggle and reflection have served to radicalize and deepen the commitments and comprehension of many Occupiers. This is not uniform, and it does not yet guarantee that the Occupy movement will be able to overcome privilege and steer clear of the forces seeking to reabsorb it into neutered electoral identification with the Democrats. It doesn't mean that Occupy has internalized anti-colonial or even thoroughly anti-capitalist politics. But in practice, many Occupations are seeking alliances with the most oppressed and exploited, correcting their understanding of the nature of policing and other repressive aspects of this society, and charting a course of independent, autonomous and direct political and social action. This bodes well for Occupy's future prospects.

This is particularly manifest in the push towards a General Strike on May 1, International Workers' Day, which commemorates the anarchist-led general strike for the eight-hour day in Chicago in 1886. In Los Angeles, in early November, barely 5 weeks into the Occupation, there was a spontaneous and exuberant call for an immediate "general strike" to "shut down the ports." This was in response to the actions taken in Oakland to counter the first brutal eviction of Occupy Oakland from Oscar Grant Plaza. This desire for radical action and solidarity, while understandable, ignored the differences between both the ports and the political environments of Oakland and Los Angeles. Occupy Oakland based itself on a deep and long-standing radical consciousness and practice, protracted recent struggles against police brutality, and a relationship with radical elements in the Black community and the labor movement, among other struggles. Furthermore, the Port of Oakland is compact and close to the location of the encampment, with a single entrance close to Black residential neighborhoods. None of those conditions pertained in Los Angeles. Here the Occupation was full of illusions about the "friendliness" of the police, many of the Occupiers had limited previous movement experience, let alone radical activity, and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are huge, remote and fed by numerous roads, highways and rail lines.

But a "port action/general strike" affinity group was formed, attracting support from the Occupy LA Labor Committee as well. The key political decision was made to connect the port action to the struggle of the port truck drivers, mostly Mexicano and Central American, who had twice before shut down the ports through industrial action, by withholding their labor, in conjunction with im/migrant rights mobilizations. Consensus was reached to build a relationship with the port truck drivers and other port workers. We laid out a political rationale of exposing the damage the rule of the 1% at the ports, symbolized by the Goldman Sachs owned shipping company SSA Marine, had done to entire economy. We set the date of the proposed "Occupy the Ports" action for December 12, the day of an already scheduled immigrant rights mobilization on "el dia de la Virgen de Guadalupe." We framed the port action as the first step towards a general strike on May 1. May Day, which has been cut off from its roots in the US and celebrated mostly by small socialist sects, has in recent years been revived and made a mass phenomenon by im/migrant workers, particularly from Mexico and Central America. In Los Angeles in particular, May 1st has seen rallies of over a million people in the streets, in response to repressive anti-immigrant legislation and with the involvement and encouragement of the organized labor movement, which has developed a fundamental orientation towards immigrant workers' rights. These two key decisions gave Occupy LA about a month to build the port action, and to do so with a longer-term orientation of internationalism and labor solidarity towards May 1 and beyond.

Occupy LA reached consensus to establish a General Strike Preparation Committee, to work with the Dec. 12 (immigrant rights) Coalition, port truck drivers, longshore, warehouse and other port workers, community residents, unions, and Occupy Long Beach to plan and organize the Dec. 12 actions. Simultaneously, the decision was made to develop alliances in the process with organized and unorganized labor, student and community groups to prepare for and build towards a General Strike on May 1, 2012, and to call on other Occupations to act on Dec. 12 and May 1.

The rationale given was significant. The GA agreed that "the 1% are depriving port truck drivers and other workers of decent pay, working conditions and the right to organize, even while the port of LA/LB is the largest in the US and a huge engine of profits for the 1%. The 1% have pursued a conscious policy of de-industrialization that has resulted in 'trade' at the port meaning that there are 7 containers coming in for every one going out. The 1% have driven migrant workers into a 'grey market' economy and repression. The 1% use police brutality and repression, jails and prisons to suppress, divide and try to silence the 99% and all who oppose their insatiable greed. To put an end to all that, we call on the 99% to march, boycott, occupy the ports, and STRIKE on December 12 for full legalization, good jobs for all, equality and justice. The port drivers and other workers have the power to push forward the kind of change we need. By building towards a General Strike, we can spread the Occupy movement and sink roots in the 99%." This consensus overcame the incessant infighting between reformist and radical views over relations with the police and the city government.

Going forward, it helped create a pro-active dynamic that enabled the Occupy movement to take the initiative in confronting and overcoming the repressive actions directed against the Occupy LA encampment, so that when the encampment was evicted, organizing for Dec. 12 was already well advanced. We were able to move ahead despite other significant setbacks. The ILWU international issued a statement disowning the west coast port action as a "third party" matter. Good Jobs LA, a project of the SEIU, which had originally supported the LA "Occupy the Ports" project, backed away at that point. But Occupy persevered. Despite 300 arrests at City Hall during the eviction, we were able two weeks later to mobilize more than 700 people to the harbor area in Long Beach in pre-dawn darkness and pouring rain. Demonstrating that Occupy was alive and kicking despite the eviction, we successfully tied up a facility of SSA Marine for many hours. In fact the response of the port police and people's defiance of them impacted far larger areas of the port on both the Los Angeles and Long Beach sides. We established relationships with port workers and their unions and networks. Many port truck drivers did stay out that morning. ILWU clerks went out on strike a few days before, and we walked the picket lines with them before they were ordered back to work. Good Jobs, which took some Occupiers from around the country to DC, discovered that their infectious spirit of resistance also applied to top-down labor organizing. L.A. Occupiers who went to DC spread word of the General Strike call.

A significant sector of the Occupy movement is now building towards a General Strike as a form of direct action to mobilize the power of working and oppressed people. This has served as a frame for other protests, marches, actions, occupations, civil disobedience, educational activities and outreach we engage in. It helps counter efforts to divert Occupy into partisan electoral politics. It provided a concrete way of addressing the fundamental economic problems and system underlying the current crises of debt, housing, unemployment, and corporate domination of politics. It also put the Occupy movement squarely into the camp of struggling for im/migrant rights. We were initially only partially successful in spreading this understanding to other Occupies. The Occupy Oakland call for a "west coast port shutdown" on the date we chose for our "Occupy the Ports" action did specify solidarity with the port truck drivers as well as with the ILWU. But now building towards May 1, this support for im/migrant rights is spreading throughout the Occupy movement, reflecting the widespread growth of the indigenous/Mexicano and Meso-American population throughout the US, and its centrality to the US labor force.

The port action, and the call for a General Strike that we reiterated in its aftermath, are helping break the sense of defeatism and isolation that has held us back individually and collectively. The May 1 General Strike provides a way to cohere our disparate efforts. It makes it possible to connect im/migrants rights struggles, occupations, student activism, labor actions, prisoner resistance, or consumer boycotts into a common and mutually reinforcing framework, where each action or component builds upon the last and builds up towards the next. In Los Angeles, we learned several tactical and political lessons from the Dec. 12 Occupy the Ports action that have helped shape and improve on-going work.

First of all, in reaffirming the General Strike, we established functional organizing subcommittees that could engage and involve the Occupiers in day to day organizing and alliance building. Organizing meetings have often been larger than the General Assembly itself, and we have taken our outreach to Occupy the Rose Parade and Occupy the Dream efforts at the Martin Luther King Day Parade, presenting a radical alternative within those celebratory spectacles.

Second, we strengthened the politics behind the general strike by reaching consensus on six key points expressing why we would be undertaking a General Strike:
For im/migrants rights! For economic, social & environmental justice and labor rights! For peace with justice! For civil liberties-end the police state! For housing, education & health care as human rights! For women's rights & gender equity! Although this program is neither explicitly anti-capitalist nor anti-colonialist, it unites significant radical democratic elements in a mutually reinforcing way. It allows for the expression of particular demands by sectors, nationalities and movements that engage with the general strike, for example, ending mass incarceration and the new Jim Crow or freeing political prisoners.

Third, we have given ourselves enough lead time to spread the call throughout the Occupy movement nationally and even internationally, and to navigate through the knotty contradictions within the labor and immigrant rights movements we are seeking to ally with. In both those movements, there are strong, institutionalized ties to the Democratic Party, a manifestation of identification with the oppressor and with the Empire. This has demonstrably weakened and hamstrung those movements again and again. Occupy is bringing its radical oppositional critique, horizontal organizing strategy, and commitment to direct, autonomous action independent of partisan electoral affiliation into the situation, pushing for a General Strike. This will push the envelope within both those movements, and within Occupy itself, towards resolving those contradictions in a revolutionary direction.

For more information and to get involved, please communicate with the General Strike Preparation Committee of Occupy Los Angeles, which has set up a website – **www.occupymay1st.org** – as well as a phone and email contact point: **323-250-MAY1**
occupymay1st@gmail.com.

And get involved in the Occupy near you to push for building the May 1 General Strike in your area.

Predators, Pimps and Leonard Peltier

by Corine Fairbanks, American Indian Movement

I attended the LEONARD PELTIER WALK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS on Sunday December 18, 2011 in San Francisco. I appreciated the messages of unity, peace and hope from the Elders who spoke on Alcatraz and again at the press conference on Pier 33. However, sometimes I find myself becoming angry at these types of events and these are a few reasons why.

The American Indian Movement has been fighting the "New Age" movement for over 30 years now, and that "movement," really a business, supports a billion dollar industry. For all of the rhetoric that these predators use, such as: "Love & Light," and "Be the change you want the world to be," they execute strategic marketing plans in order to profit from selling and desecrating our ceremonies, sacred objects, and medicines.

These New-Agers are white collar pimps. They prostitute our spirituality and culture to whoever has a buck to spend. In doing so, they export it all over the world, yet never once take a moment to identify us as real people, with real needs and real life-and-death issues. Real Native nations and spiritual leaders are united in support for Peltier, while these "new-age" fakers and their funds are nowhere to be found.

Then there are costume companies and clothing companies, that capitalize on cheap imitations of Native American regalia. You know the kind I am talking about, the "Native Poca-Hottie" Halloween costumes that non-Natives seemed determined to wear. Even famous actresses wearing cheap mock war bonnets think it is chic and sexy. Here again, how much of the profits go back to Native people?

All of the billions of dollars generated by both of the above business ventures and nothing comes back to our Native communities. No funding comes back to our food and Social Service programs, veteran programs, let alone to Leonard Peltier and his defense committee and legal fund. Our communities are in need of funding; whether they be in an urban setting struggling with poverty, or with our relatives still back in our homelands, some of them freezing to death because they can not afford to buy heat for their homes.

We need to pin these "pimps" to the wall! We need to make them accountable to the appropriation and exploitation of our culture and spirituality – and make them hurt where it can only hurt with these predators -- through their wallet. At the end of the day, how many of them laugh at us while counting change from all the sales they have made?

Who is Leonard Peltier?
The FBI, CIA and US of A don't want you to know who he is.
They want us to forget.
They want us to forget we are still at war.
They want us to forget we are still kept as hostages in our own lands.
They want us stuck being worried on our 9 to 5 jobs.

They want our people sedated on video war games. They want us preoccupied by fluff "media", with random facts and trivia keeping our communities anesthetized

Who is Leonard Peltier?
He is a warrior
He is a political prisoner
He is a prisoner of war

Through our social media, AIM Southern California and AIM Santa Barbara website we have literally thousands of "friends." Yet why are they not here at this event? Most of them claim to be Native or Indigenous, yet why have they not participated or demanded Peltier's release? Even one dollar from a thousand people could move mountains on some of these issues and help educate more people in who Leonard Peltier is. How many "Native" or "Indigenous People" have even ever heard of Leonard Peltier? How many know of the personal sacrifices this warrior and his family have made and the outcome of these sacrifices?

If you say you are American Indian, or Indigenous, you have a responsibility to do something to make our communities better. We have a responsibility to become the media. We have a responsibility to be present, work in the **NOW** and educate our communities. We need to come together and brainstorm on what **WE** can do to catapult our issues up and into the arena where dominant non-Native society will be forced to deal with it and come to the table to help problem solve. The United Nations Declaration of Indigenous People is a good tool we can start using to implement change in our communities. We can use the DRIP document to stop pollutions and toxins being dumped or mined on our lands, stop gang injunctions, and we can use this tool to free Leonard Peltier.

Individually and as people, we have to make this commitment of ACTion. We need to follow the examples and the role modeling that these elders, here, have done for us. We are elders in training and they are showing the way to keep our cultures alive and thriving. Our Elders, our ancestors, our languages, our ancestral ways are the key to our survival and our success in the present and future.

As Native people we need take the time to critically think how we can make people accountable for the "cultural prostitution" and exploitation being committed against our Nations. We need to pressure these businesses to make restitution to our communities. We need to ask ourselves how can we continue to educate others about who Leonard Peltier is, and what we can do to demand Leonard Peltier's release. How can you help these walkers and runners of the Peltier Walk with their prayer in motion?

Even a dollar is a blessing- think about it, if everyone gave $1- that would enough to move mountains or at least help free Leonard Peltier.

www.Leonardpeltierwalkforhumanrights.com http://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info/

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK

FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) WE GO WHERE THEY GO: Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US: This doesn't mean we never go to court, but the cops uphold white supremacy and the status quo, They attack us and everyone that resists oppression. We must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS: In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people.

We want a free classless society. **WE INTEND TO WIN!**

Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)
PO Box 1055*Culver City CA 90232*323-901-4269
antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com*www.antiracist.org

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Discussion Paper On Immigration 2012

by the ***Mexican National Liberation Movement (Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional Mexicano /MLN-M)***

The recent history of the Mexican people in the United States of America clearly shows that we as a community started out on the right track by attempting to transform our situation and to create a better life for our children. However, much of the energy that we generated in the year 2005 was quickly taken away from us by the powers that be.

The Catholic Church, along with the Labor Unions, could not allow the Mexican people to start to define for themselves what we needed as a people. They could not let the feelings of our people run free. They felt like they had to corral that energy and so they moved to harness all of our people's energy and redirected all our momentum down a road that they picked for us the road towards reform. They said to us that we had to exercise our power within the parameters set down by the Democratic Party, Labor Unions and the Catholic Church.

These institutions could not allow for an independent base to emerge within the confines of the United States. So the only way to harness this power was to direct it in the direction of political reform and completely away from the direction of independence, which the powers-that-be knew that the United States population would never accept.

Those of our people who were first generation or second generation bought into the whole question of democracy, while never understanding historically what the Mexicans that had lived here since the termination of the Mexican American war had experienced. And so they took our people down the road to reform, and what transpired was the corruption of all that energy, the same energy that could have given us some form of substance, methodically evaporated into nothing.

We must look to what has historically transpired with the Mexican population since the Alamo, or since the Mexican American war. We're a very resilient people but we have to make some historical analysis of our current situation. We as Mexicans are the only people that had a war waged against them and who also reside within the confines of this country. The Mexican American War followed the Alamo and the annexation of Texas.

Because of this, we cannot allow the criminalization of our people and the term "illegal" to be applied to us as humans. We must counter this attack with the fact that the United States stole and plundered our land and raped our people. We as Mexicans have a right to be here on our land. We have to fight for this position as the Empire is engulfed in wars of conquest in the Middle East.

How can this Empire propose democracy in the world and build a wall of infamy against our people? We as a people have to rise up to their challenge as original people in the Americas, as the original inhabitants of Turtle Island. Why do we want to be part of an empire that is destroying people in all parts of the world? This is the same empire that has created the conditions in Mexico where 51 % of our people live in poverty and 25 % live in extreme poverty. This means that only 20 % of our people are making it. This is a reality that all of Latin America currently faces.

As Mexicans and Latinos we must understand what is happening in our homelands to be able to wage a struggle to emancipate our people -- be it in Mexico or all of Latin America. All people who come here from all the different parts of the Americas have to understand that these territories, the seven states that were plundered during the Mexican American war, are all part of occupied Mexico. This is why we have to have a different view on the question of immigration. For the Mexican people, this is really a question of migration from one part of our country to the other.

People who choose not to hear this really do not understand history -- you can distort it but you can never change it. As Mexicanos we are part of the original people of the Americas, and because of this, we can never turn our backs on our history, as it is the door that will take us to our future.

There can never be any reform for us in this empire because this empire was never created to accommodate us; it was created to plunder and rape our natural resources and our Mother Earth.

If we as a people believe that we can accommodate ourselves to this empire, then we have to also face the reality of going all over the world to kill people in their own homeland, so that the empire can take control of their natural resources and gain control of the almighty dollar. If that's what you as an individual are willing to do to accommodate yourself to be a part of this country, then you have lost touch with your humanity.

We as a people have to fight on both sides of the imposed border to affect change and to align ourselves with what really represents humanity and learn from other people in the world who have fought for the independence of their countries. Let us band together with the other five and a half billion people that work every day for fifty cents, one dollar or two dollars a day. In the words of Mao, we must "organize the many to defeat the few." It often seems like such an insurmountable task, but everywhere in the world there is poverty and there is struggle, and even though it has its own dynamics, we have to understand why this situation exists. We have to stop blaming ourselves for our own oppression.

The following legislative actions prove the historical contradictions of the so-called democracy of the United States. The original fugitive slave act of 1793 was a federal law that was written with the intention of enforcing Article 4- section 2 of the US Constitution.

In 1850 the only people who had to deal with the question of papers and legality were African Americans. In recognition of southern support for California's admission to the union as a free state and ending the slave trade in the District of Columbia, Congress enacted the Fugitive Slave Act to assist the south with maintaining a tight rein on slaveholders' property. Existing laws had created a system designed to enforce the institution of slavery. Southern states usually had slave codes that prevented slaves from being at large without a pass. All this is very similar to Apartheid/ South African pass laws and today's papers for undocumented immigrants.

The key word in all of this is racial profiling. This new Fugitive Slave law declared that any federal marshal or other official who did not arrest a runaway slave was liable of receiving a $1,000 fine and six months in prison. Law enforcement officials everywhere now had a duty to arrest anyone suspected of being a runaway slave based on no evidence other than a claimant's sworn testimony of ownership. Any individual providing food or shelter was subject to six months' imprisonment and a $1,000 fine. The new laws created a new force of federal commissioners empowered to pursue fugitive slaves in any state and return them to their owners. No statute of limitations applied, and so even those slaves who had been free for many years could be and were returned to the slave traders. All this sounds like the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, known as I.C.E.

The Fugitive Slave Act was passed and used against the African American community from 1850-1865. From 1865 to 1965, Jim Crow type laws were used to control all aspects of African Americans' lives in the US.

The Chinese Exclusion Act was passed by Congress in 1882 and signed into law by President Chester Arthur. A ten-year moratorium was passed in the first federal law that proscribed entry by an ethnic working group on the premise that it endangered the good order of certain localities.

In 1924 after the assassination of Zapata, Villa and Magon and the termination of the Mexican Revolution, the border patrol was created to maintain the division and control of the Mexican people. The border patrol agents were recruited from the AZ, CA and Texas Rangers.

The first wave of massive deportations occurred between 1929 and 1939 during the Great Depression years, beginning under the Herbert Hoover administration, when a million were deported to Mexico. This is not included in the history textbooks, due to the fact that out of the one million deported, 600,000 were Mexican Americans, legal citizens born in the United States.

This was followed by the interment of Japanese Americans in 1942. 110,000 Japanese Americans were sent to internment camps. Executive order 9066 was issued Feb. 19, 1942 and signed into law by Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1944 the Supreme Court upheld the Constitutionality of the Internment order. The United States census bureau assisted the interment efforts by providing confidential neighborhood information on Japanese Americans. Those that were as little as 1/16 Japanese could be placed in internment camps.

Following this, and not to be out done, in 1950, President Truman's Administration instituted Operation Wetback and deported one million two hundred thousand Mexicans. To name the deportation act "Wetback" was a racist vilification of our people.

The attacks on the Mexican community continued. In 1994 after campaigning for Proposition 187 in California, Governor Pete Wilson was reelected on the anti-Mexican wave that was created by Proposition187. This proposition prohibited an education for the children of undocumented immigrants, as well as denied them all social services. This law was later rescinded, as it was declared unconstitutional.

Proposition 187 was the start of a new wave of repression that was unleashed by the fascist sector in the United States against the Mexican people. Earlier, in 1986, California passed the English Only law that was also aimed at the Mexican community. This English Only movement was spearheaded by the Federation of American Immigration Reform (FAIR), an organization headed by John Tanton, an individual known for his anti-immigrant views. FAIR received funding in the amount of $1.3 million from the Pioneer Fund. This fund was established in 1937 and was based on the Nazi philosophy of Eugenics.

In 1996 the Bill Clinton Administration picked up on the California proposition and signed into law the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act [IIRIRA], which did two things. It expanded the number of deportable crimes, and made non-citizens who were subject to removal liable to be detained without being able to post bond. This was followed by "Operation Gatekeeper." Operation Gatekeeper created the new corridors that would eventually build the first walls on the San Diego and Texas side, while pushing migrants to cross through the Sonora Desert. It is estimated that 4,000 to 12,000 migrants have lost their lives since the passing of Operation Gatekeeper.

In 2003, the Department of Homeland Security, ICE, and the Office of Detention and Removal (DRO) met to develop a document entitled "Endgame." Endgame is a 10-year strategic plan to pursue, arrest and deport every undocumented person in the country by 2012. According to the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights' report, entitled "Injustice for All: The Rise of the U.S. Immigration Policing Regime," it developed the infrastructure for a future "Immigration Policing Regime" and repression in the form of Raids, Racial Profiling, 287(g) Police/ICE collaborations, the creation of more Detention and Deportation facilities, and the Secure Communities program.

In 2005 the U.S House of Representatives approved the Sensenbrenner law [HR 4437] that criminalized not only undocumented immigrants but also anyone who offered them moral or material support. Note that Sensenbrenner had a business investment in the Olive Branch Restaurant chains that employed undocumented workers.

Senate Bill 1070 was passed in April of 2010 by the legislature of the state of Arizona. 1070 was introduced by Republican State Senator Russell Pearce. Russell Pearce has ties with Neo Nazi organizations, and also attends rallies while conducting speeches before many of their groups. The main author of SB 1070 is Kris Kobach. Kobach is a law professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Kobach also works for FAIR. The Koch Brothers funded American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) also had a role in spreading SB 1070 as "model legislation" for other states. Kobach now advises Romney.

Kobach has a long history of involvement in Kansas politics, as he was once a Republican candidate for congress in 2004. According to several newspaper articles, many contributions to his campaign came from white supremacist groups. Kobach and his cronies, all legal conspirators, made the concept of "rational suspicion" a standard for determining who is or isn't an undocumented immigrant. Let us apply this concept to them and see where it leads us. Senate Bill 1070 violated the U.S. Constitution, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, [United States / Mexico 1848] and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. **See p. 6**

Of Idiots - and Sages

[col. Writ 1/11/12] © 2012 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

How much is your child worth? How much is your grandchild worth?

These are not trick questions. They arise from the news that North Carolina recently announced cash compensation to thousands of survivors of their State sterilization program that ran from 1929 to 1974 ~ an astonishing 45 years!

North Carolina was but one of many mostly Southern states that sterilized people whom it considered as `defective'. In this, they were supported by authorities as august as the U.S. Supreme Court, which, in its now-infamous Buck vs. Bell (1927) decision, found that a state could properly sterilize its citizens, and citizens had no constitutional right to oppose it, for, in the words of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes: "Three generations of imbeciles are enough!"

A North Carolina task force recommended payment of $50,000 for each survivor.

North Carolina shouldn't be the whipping boy here, for such practices took place nationally with Federal government support. Historians and scholars Mary Frances Berry and John Blassingame, in their 1982 work, ***Long Memory: The Black Experience in America*** (NY, Oxford University Press) tell us that as late as the 1970's, the U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare were "forcing 100,000 to 150,000 people to be sterilized annually"! [p.353] Over 90% of these people were Black.

This horrific state practice and the U.S. Supreme Court's chilling reasoning in support thereof, gives us some insight into how social prejudices and attitudes percolate into all sections of society and despite their self-evident madness are seen by seemingly enlightened sectors as perfectly reasonable only to be later tarnished as repellent with the passage of time.

If a state, or nation, could sterilize its own so called `citizens', deny people the right and ability to have children, what is such a state (or nation) but a dictatorship of arrogance and power?

One day, perhaps sooner than we suppose, we shall look back at the phenomenon of mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex as proof of a mad society.

Perhaps such a future state will pay reparations ---(oops) …er, I mean compensation to their survivors in 75 or 80 years.

If any survive.

WWW.FREEMUMIA.COM

Mumia Abu-Jamal, AM 8335, SCI-Mahanoy, 301 Morea Rd.,Frackville, PA. 17932

Supporters Demand Transfer to General Population

Torture of Mumia Abu-Jamal Continues off Death Row

by Hans Bennett of Prison Radio

On December 7, following the US Supreme Court's refusal to consider the Philadelphia District Attorney's final avenue of appeal, current DA Seth Williams announced that he would no longer be seeking a death sentence for the world-renowned death row journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal--on death row following his conviction at a 1982 trial deemed unfair by Amnesty International, the European Parliament, the Japanese Diet, Nelson Mandela, andmany others. Abu-Jamal's sentence of execution was first "overturned" by a federal court in December, 2001, and during the next ten years, he was never transferred from death row at the level five supermax prison, SCI Greene, in rural western Pennsylvania.

Shortly after the DA's announcement in early December, Mumia Abu-Jamal, now 57 years old, was transferred to SCI Mahanoy in Frackville, PA, 100 miles from Philadelphia. Once there, it was expected that he would be released from solitary confinement and transferred into general population where he would finally have contact visits and generally less onerous conditions. However, he was immediately placed in "Administrative Custody," in SCI Mahanoy's Restrictive Housing Unit, where his conditions of isolation and repression are now in many ways more extreme than they were on death row.

Presently at SCI Mahanoy, Mumia Abu-Jamal is shackled around his ankles and wrists whenever he is outside his cell, even to the shower and during already restricted visits--where he is already behind Plexiglas. Before going to the yard he is subject to strip searches before and after the visit. He is only allowed bits of paper to write notes on, with a rubber flex pen, and four books (no shelves). He gets no access to news reports; his letters are delayed; Glaring lights shine on him 24 hours a day. He's allowed only one brief phone call to his wife and one to an attorney. He has no access to adequate food or commissary.

In the first week of January, at Abu-Jamal's request, supporters began a campaign directed at the PA Secretary of Corrections, SCI Mahanoy, and DA Seth Williams, demanding that Abu-Jamal be immediately transferred to the general population. The National Lawyers Guild (for whom Abu-Jamal serves as the Vice President) has released a statement and created an online petition demanding his transfer to general population.

Furthermore, Abu-Jamal has asked for supporters to not just call for his release from the hole, but to challenge the very practice of solitary confinement and what are called in Pennsylvania "Restricted Housing Units."

Challenging Isolation

Supporting Abu-Jamal's call to action, the Pennsylvania-based prison-activist organization Human Rights Coalition (HRC) explains that "Mumia may be in solitary, but he is not alone. The PA Department of Corrections (PADOC) holds approximately 2,500 people in solitary confinement on any given day, many of them for years at a time."

According to Bret Grote of the HRC, "While PADOC operates in a seemingly arbitrary nature, there are some factors that place prisoners at high risk for being kept in long-term solitary confinement: 1) being a political activist or jailhouse lawyer; 2) race; and 3) mental illness. Those who file grievances about staff misconduct or lawsuits about civil and human rights violations are routinely subjected to repressive treatment. Andre Jacobs and Carrington Keys, two members of a group of prisoners known as the Dallas 6, have been held in solitary for approximately 11 and 9 years respectively as a result of their speaking out against torture and other human rights violations inside PA's control units." He continued: "Regarding race, the disparities within the solitary confinement population may be the most extreme in the entire criminal legal system, which is saying a lot. We do not know the exact figures because the demographics are not public, but reports of solitary units overwhelmingly comprised of people of color in PA prisons are common.

"Over the last thirty-plus years there has been a national trend of warehousing those with mental health needs inside prisons. These people often end up in prison, because of their difficulties in adapting to life outside the walls. The stresses of prison can lead to them getting in trouble with prison authorities due to an inability to follow the rules, which leads them to solitary, which leads to a worsening of their underlying psychological state. This cycle of dysfunction is a normative feature of prison systems across the U.S. This nexus of retaliation, racism, and abuse of the mentally ill is widespread in PA prisons."

Ten Extra Years Spent On Death Row

In 2001, following US District Court Judge William Yohn's ruling, Abu-Jamal could have been transferred from solitary confinement on death row at SCI Greene, and into general population. If transferred, he would have had more freedom, including contact visits with family and friends. However, Judge Yohn granted the motion by the DA to keep Abu-Jamal in punitive conditions on death row while the DA appealed Yohn's ruling. As a result, Abu-Jamal stayed on death row during an appeals process that lasted almost ten years, a process that has now resulted in lifting the sentence.

Fighting for Mumia's Release

While Abu-Jamal and his international network of supporters celebrated the final overturning of the death sentence, it was a bittersweet victory for a movement that has long fought for his release. In 2008 when the Third Circuit first affirmed Yohn's 2001 ruling, the Court also ruled against a new trial on the original charges, effectively ending that avenue of appeal for Abu-Jamal to be released from prison.

At this point, a new trial will likely require the bringing forth of new evidence. The investigation of police and prosecutorial misconduct, including the suppression of crucial evidence and the intimidation of witnesses could also lead to a new trial. These are the avenues that will be pursued to obtain Mumia's freedom. Among the new evidence that has come out in recent years, Philadelphia journalists Linn Washington Jr. and Dave Lindorff have recently performed a ballistics test fundamentally challenging the DA's shooting scenario/theory used to convict Abu-Jamal.

In Philadelphia on December 9, the 30th anniversary of Abu-Jamal's arrest, supporters organized a large event at the National Constitution Center that was attended by over 1,000 people. Declaring that a sentence of life without parole is unacceptable, speakers ranging from author/activist Cornell West to Ramona Africa of MOVE & the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, pledged to continue fighting for Abu-Jamal's freedom. Prerecorded video messages to the December 9 event were delivered by author/activist Michelle Alexander and the internationally renowned human rights activist Desmond Tutu.

As Grote of the Human Rights Coalition says: "It is absolutely critical to the fate of movements for social justice in this country that the situation of prisoners and the function of prisons in the social order take a central role in our analysis and practice. Everybody can correspond with a prisoner, help out a local group, get on email lists, and research the reality of the prison nation. It is not the land of the free, never was, never was intended to be, and the sooner we disabuse those around us of that notion the better chance there is to win some badly needed victories. There is no dream too big and no action too small, let's keep at it til the walls crumble."

Contact the PA Secretary of Corrections. Demand that Mumia be transferred to general population and demand the shutdown of RHU (Restricted Housing Units)!

John Wetzl, Secretary Department of Corrections, 2520 Lisburn Road, P.O. Box 598, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0598, (717) 975-4928, ra-contactdoc@pa.gov

Excerpts from:

On Democracy, Matriarchy, Occupy Wall Street, & Food Security

An interview with Russell Maroon Shoats

http://russellmaroonshoats.wordpress.com/2012/01/18/an-interview-with-russell-maroon-shoats-on-democracy-matriarchy-occupy-wall-street-and-food-security/

Interviewer: *How would you define democracy?*
Maroon: Democracy is the ability of the individual to exercise self-determination in the core areas of economics, education, entertainment, labor, law, politics, religion, sex, war and peace; taking under consideration the need to both support and guide children until they can responsibly exercise those things on their own. What Marimba Ani calls "rhetorical ethics,"[or 'lip service'] is the practice that has held sway [regarding] democracy. Now, however, more of the masses, globally, are accepting the fact that except for a small minority, democracy is something they do not exercise. So the question we must ask ourselves is "How do we construct societies where the individual is able to broadly exercise self-determination?"

Interviewer: *Do you find the concept of democracy to be useful to popular movements?*
Maroon: The exercise of democracy/self-determination is paramount at every stage of a popular movement, for such an effort to remain true to the word "popular." After all, individuals usually feel a need to look out for their own interest, and to promote and support democracy/self-determination goes hand in hand with that need. If a popular movement deviates from that, then it too will fall into the practice of utilizing rhetorical ethics.

Interviewer: *What was the relationship between democracy and the Black Panther Party?*
Maroon: Here I'll have to step on a lot of toes. The Black Panther Party (BPP) – which the Philadelphia Black Unity Council (my parent group) merged with in 1969 – was never a democratically run organization. It too used rhetorical ethics to justify its methods, both internally and to the public at large. It championed the Leninist vanguard party concept that had been used during the Russian struggle against the czar. I've been researching and studying those [parties] for about 40 years, and have yet to find a single vanguard party that really exercised what I have defined as democracy/self-determination. Such groups continue to champion the establishing of popular movements, but their motives are to try to control such movements and use them as a battering ram to weaken or defeat the state[. This is] in order to give the vanguard party a chance to try to seize state power, and then set themselves up as a new ruling elite. The histories of vanguard parties leave no doubt about that.

The BPP, however, was a youthful formation that served a historical service of giving youth of color – and later youth in general – an introduction to a form of radical politics that was little known to them. Little did they know that the methods they chose to use were contradictory to the ends they sought. Thus early on they began to experience friction from members believing the rhetorical ethics the leadership relied on, and the leadership's failure to act towards the rank-and-file democratically, within the traditional vanguard party "democratic centralist" organizational rules. That forced the BPP leaders to resort to using naked terror and violence – both internally and within the communities (see what the womyn BPP head wrote in her book: ***A Taste of Power***, by Elaine Brown). Eventually that and the struggle to keep the state from destroying them (see the FBI's COINTELPRO program of unlawful actions against the BPP), along with their youthful inexperience, caused the original BPP to disintegrate, leaving members in prison, exiled, disillusioned and with shattered lives.

Unfortunately, newer BPP formations have not been provided with enough insight into this subject to help them fully weigh both the strengths and weaknesses of the original BPP. Indeed, some of the newer formations are hostile to any real critiques of the original BPP, a practice held in common with most Leninist vanguard parties historically. To the rescue have come the multiple popular movements that the Arab Spring has thrown up: Wisconsin, the Georgia and California prisoners' actions, and Occupy Wall Street. Here [is] a promising trend that contains the seeds that can develop into a much-needed popular movement, that can be democratic and self-determining, and capable of challenging the minority for control.

Interviewer: *Would you say you are a latecomer to the feminist movement?*
Maroon: Yes! In fact, although I've been a committed activist since before the assassination of King in 1968, it's only been in the last 6 years that I've been awakened to the best of what feminism is, and the history of that movement. Moreover, I'm ashamed to admit that in that area I too have long practiced a rhetorical ethic, in paying lip service to the idea that since before 1968 I was struggling for the uplift and freedom of all. [I} never fully grasped that my entire worldview rested on patriarchal/male supremacist ideas, notions and practices, feminism's opposite and mortal enemy.

My comrade Fred Ho is the first person to put it all together for me. He made an excellent case of how the practice of matriarchy was once a widespread and egalitarian phenomenon, and why today we must again study how we can utilize some of those principles in order to address the ills that humynkind faces. Nonetheless, I was so stuck-on-stupid until I continued in my male supremacist ways. It took the writings of Stan Goff, a former career military man (Special Forces, Rangers, Delta Team) who had rejected the oppressive policies that he had spent his life defending, and adopted a form of radical politics and activism, to get my full attention. In Goff's third book, ***Sex and War***, he really got my interest by offering long and insightful quotes to bolster the points he was making, quotes by radical and feminist writers and activists. Passages so full of meaning they stimulated me to begin to research the full works of the wimmin mentioned.

[These are] powerful feminists like Maria Mies, Vandana Shiva and Veronika Bennholdt-Thomsen, with groundbreaking books like Ecofeminism (Mies and Shiva), Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale: Women and the International Division of Labor (Mies), and The Subsistence Perspective: Beyond the Globalised Economy (Veronika Bennholdt-Thomsen and Maria Mies). I've learned more from [them] than most of what I thought the previous 25 years of study and activism had taught me. More importantly, those works and further study, reflection and discussions caused me to radically alter my worldview and political views. Thus, when comrade Fred Ho and I recently got together, I was finally ready to join his efforts, which you too can examine by e-mailing prefiguration@gmail.com.

Interviewer: *What are the strengths and weaknesses of the Occupy Wall Street Movement?*
Maroon: Occupy Wall Street (OWS) has brilliantly changed the narrative and relationships of opposing forces – not by the "occupations," which by themselves could be equaled or eclipsed by a number of other street demonstrations. That's not to belittle the beautiful and inspiring people of the OWS inspired occupations. The strategic strength and paradigm shifting breakthrough of OWS is encompassed in the "We are the 99%" slogan. That instantly won to our side 99% of the inhabitants of the globe! A master-stroke that forced the ruling minority into a defensive position that it will be extremely hard for them to get out of. Indeed, the ruling elite's only responses have been to use police force, which leaves the OWS movement in control of the narrative, and those inspired by them are themselves thinking of ways that they too make their grievances known.

It's like the rebellions during the 1960s: each fueled later rebellions, because the underlying conditions were so widespread, until there was not enough police/national guard to fully repress them. The genie was coaxed back into the bottle after billions were spent on social programs, [like] Johnson's "Great Society." Today, however, the ruling minority will be unable to co-opt the 99% financially, unless they commit "class suicide." They would have to agree to reorder the system so radically, give back so much of the wealth they've stolen, they would "kill the goose that laid the golden egg." The ruling minority won't even accept the pleas of Warren Buffet and Bill Gates, who see the handwriting on the wall, to at least act like they care by paying their taxes.

Control of the narrative will be the main strength of the OWS movement for the foreseeable future. But in order to be more proactive, OWS must address a glaring weakness: the disconnect between its activists and the exploited and super-exploited people of color – numbering in the tens of millions in the US, a segment of this country that has always suffered more than the rest of its 99%. I'll not address how the global 99% breaks down in that regard, except to say that the global South has historically been at the bottom of the barrel in most respects. I know the US better, so I'll address it here.

In the US, people of color – except for a minority of rich and middle class individuals – are worse off than the rest of the 99% (per capita) in every category. Homelessness, joblessness, home foreclosures, lack of health insurance, new diagnoses with HIV, deportations, immigrants' homes broken up and separated, children in foster care, drug- and crime-ridden communities, imprisonment, probation or parolees, loss of voting rights and access to social welfare programs, horrible schools, toxic communities, and the list goes on.

The moral strength of OWS rests on its pledge to rescue this country's vast "middle class" from further sliding backwards – into the poverty that the majority of the people of color find themselves in already. Yet the middle class is not yet ready to take the steps that are necessary to pursue a protracted struggle to reach those ends, and the people of color have yet to see that it's in their interests to hit the streets in mass in order to alter the class composition and goals of this movement. Most people of color view OWS as a "white thing," or so I've been told, not recognizing that their mass participation is needed to help OWS mature into a true mass movement.

To complicate this lack of participation by the people of color is the failure of their traditional "leaders" to mobilize them behind OWS. [This] is a product of these leaders' egos: they feel jealousy and envy towards this young upstart movement, who have accomplished more in weeks than they have in the last three decades. And the hostility of OWS to the old charismatic leadership style – the "leaders" believe – threatens to make them useless; an extremely shortsighted calculation! In fact, their accumulated knowledge and experience could be invaluable if they would control their egos and begin to see themselves more as organic intellectuals. The spread of modern communications that the Arab Spring demonstrates makes that [old] style [leadership] superfluous, reactionary, and a drag on forward progress.

That said, it's my belief that OWS and those traditional influential personalities within the people of color communities still desperately need each other! In ***The Wretched of the Earth***, Frantz Fanon tells us that during the Algerian independence struggle the forward elements of that effort initially believed they could bypass the traditional leaders amongst the oppressed and go directly to the masses with their compelling logic and arguments against the French colonial system. They failed, however, and were isolated, killed, exiled and imprisoned. After studying things while in prison, they decided to seek the help of those leaders as a necessary compromise on their release; a position that later bore fruit, although both elements – the forward thinking fighters and the traditional leaders – continued to struggle to control the dynamics of the independence movement. OWS must pursue a similar strategy in order to acquire help in mobilizing the masses among people of color in the US. OWS must seek out not only the known influential individuals in the people of color communities, but also the smaller groups who are working for change. OWS can also launch their own initiatives in those communities – wherever that's deemed possible and useful.

Interviewer: *What are economic alternatives to the current domination of big banks, war profiteers, and the profit-drive system?*
One aspect of the prefigurative work that strikes me as the bedrock is working towards food security. There's no need to detail how fragile most people's food acquisition is, as that relates to healthy food and terrible eating habits and subsequent poor health in this country. We are prisoners of the corporations that dominate everything we eat. And they actually mass produce, process and sell foods that have been proven – over and over – to be like slowly drinking poison – poison that's profitable (for them). Thus, food security is designed to lessen our dependency on those corporations. Such an effort is already being carried out by the parent group of the prefigurative initiative that Fred Ho is a part of: Scientific Soul Sessions (SSS); at www.scientificsoulsessions.com.

For the full interview, see Russell Shoatz's blog.

Ron Paul Was Implicated in 1981 in the Failed White Supremacist Invasion of Dominica

by Casey Gane-McCalla,

In 1981, a lawyer tried to subpoena Ron Paul to testify in the trial of Don Black, a Grand Wizard for the Ku Klux Klan who would later go on to found the white supremacist, neo-Nazi web-site, Stormfront. Black was charged along with two other Klansmen with planning to violently overthrow the small Caribbean country of Dominica in what they called "Operation Red Dog." While a judge refused to subpoena Paul, Don Black would come back to haunt him many years later.

In 1981 a group of American and Canadian white supremacists lead by Klansman and mercenary, Michael (Mike) Perdue planned on taking over a small West Indian country called Dominica by overthrowing the government of Prime Minister Eugenia Charles and restoring its previous prime minister, Patrick Johns, into power. The group planned to create an Aryan paradise in Dominica and make money through casinos, cocaine and brothels.

On the day the group of white supremacists were supposed to travel to Dominica, they were arrested by ATF agents and were found with over 30 automatic weapons, shotguns, rifles, handguns, dynamite, ammunition, a Confederate flag and a Nazi flag. The plan would be dubbed "The Bayou of Pigs" after the failed invasion of Cuba.

The leader of the group, Michael Perdue, pled guilty to planning the coup and turned state's evidence. Perdue testified that several other people helped organize and fund the coup, and that two Texas politicians were aware of the plan. Among those Perdue implicated were white supremacist David Duke, former Texas Governor John Connally and Congressman Ron Paul, whom he claimed knew about the plot.

A judge refused to subpoena Paul or Connally even though Perdue claimed both of them were aware of the plot. Don Black's friend and fellow KKK Grand Wizard, David Duke was called to testify before a grand jury but claimed that he would take the Fifth Amendment and never testified. While Duke was never charged with a crime, several books points to Duke as the organizer who connected Perdue to the other mercenary Klansmen and the people who funded their endeavor. Everyone else implicated by Perdue was charged with the plot.

Perdue named three men as funders of the plot, L.E. Matthews of Jackson, MS, James C. White of Houston, and David Duke's close friend and backer, J.W. Kirkpatrick. Kirpatrick killed himself before he could stand trial and White and Matthews would be acquitted in court. Former Prime Minister of Dominica Patrick Johns was sentenced to 12 years in prison for his part of the plot. Michael Perdue, Don Black and seven other Klansmen were sentenced to 3 years in prison.

Ron Paul has never made a statement denying knowledge of the plot despite being implicated by Perdue and almost subpoenaed. Two of the people involved in the plot, Don Black and David Duke, have gone on to become two of the most prominent white supremacists of the modern era, and also two of Paul's most controversial supporters.

Paul would be once again tied to Don Black 26 years after the "Bayou of Pigs." After it was revealed that Black donated $500 dollars to the Ron Paul Presidential campaign, the campaign refused to give it back. Paul was photographed with Black and his son by David Duke's former assistant, Jamie Kelso, who was both an organizer for Ron Paul and the owner of white supremacist sites, WhiteNewsNow.com and TheWhiteRace.com, as well as moderating Black's neo-Nazi web-site, Stormfront. Black was one of Paul's most enthusiastic supporters and helped rally the white supremacist community around Paul, through Stormfront. Paul had printed praise of another Operation Red Dog planner, David Duke, in his newsletters and Duke returned the favor, calling him "our king" and endorsing him for President in his Libertarian run.

That wasn't the only time Paul was tied to white supremacists. In the '80s, Paul claimed that the best source of his campaign donations came from a list from notorious neo-Nazi Willis Carto's publication, The Spotlight. In the 90s, Paul's newsletters were originally discovered in an online neo-Nazi directory. As recently as 2006, Paul was scheduled to appear on "The Political Cesspool," the radio show of David Duke's white supremacist protégé, James Edwards.

[As reported on May 22, 1996 in the Dallas Morning News: "Dr. Ron Paul, a Republican congressional candidate from Texas, wrote in his political newsletter in 1992 that 95% of the black men in Washington, D.C. are "semi-criminal or entirely criminal." He also wrote that black teenagers can be "unbelievably fleet of foot." Dr. Paul, who is running in Texas' 14th Congressional District, defended his writings in an interview Tuesday. He said they were being taken out of context. In the Ron Paul Political Report: "If you have ever been robbed by a black teenaged male, you know how unbelievably fleet of foot they can be." Dr. Paul, who served in Congress in the late 1970s and early 1980s, said Tuesday that he has produced the newsletter since 1985 and distributes it to an estimated 7,000 to 8,000 subscribers. Dr. Paul denied suggestions that he was a racist and said he was not evoking stereotypes when he wrote the columns. He said they should be read and quoted in their entirety to avoid misrepresentation.

"In the [1996] interview, he did not deny he made the [1992] statement about the swiftness of black men. "If you try to catch someone that has stolen a purse from you, there is no chance to catch them," Dr. Paul said. He also said the comment about black men in the nation's capital was made while writing about a 1992 study produced by the National Center on Incarceration and Alternatives, a criminal justice think tank based in Virginia. Citing statistics from the study, Dr. Paul's Report had concluded: "Given the inefficiencies of what DC laughingly calls the criminal justice system, I think we can safely assume that 95 percent of the black males in that city are semi-criminal or entirely criminal." [In response to questions from the Dallas paper,] "These aren't my figures," Dr. Paul said Tuesday. "That is the assumption you can gather from" the report." Later, Paul claimed that the original columns were not written by him.—***Ed.***]

Given the scrutiny given to presidential candidates, shouldn't Paul's connection to an attempted violent invasion of a small island by white supremacists be re-investigated? If the media investigates every accusation of affairs or sexual harassment for Herman Cain or Newt Gingrich, shouldn't they investigate accusations that Paul knew about a white supremacist plot to violently overthrow the government of a small Black island, especially with Paul's other connections to white supremacists?

http://newsone.com/nation/casey-gane-mccalla/ron-paul-was-implicated-in-attempted-white-supremacist-island-invasion/

MLN-M Discussion Paper on Immigration 2012

continued from page 3

Alabama's H.B. 56 was passed on June 16, 2011. Five things we should understand about this law: H.B. 56 requires police to stop anyone who they suspect may have possibly broken a law, and inquire about their immigration status. Secondly, the new law makes it illegal for undocumented immigrants to enroll in or attend public colleges.

Thirdly, the new law makes it illegal for undocumented people to apply for or solicit work. Subsequently, this new law makes it illegal to rent property to those who are undocumented and lastly and perhaps most shockingly, the new law requires employees of public schools to determine and report approximately how many students -- children or teenagers -- are undocumented, regardless of how much proof may exist.

According to a report titled "Shattered Families," a report from the Applied Research Center, the Obama administration has deported 46,000 parents of children who are U. S. citizens within the first six months of 2011. Government data shows a total of 397,000 expulsions in the entire fiscal year 2011. This means that "almost one in four people deported is the parent of a United States citizen child," said Seth Freed Wessler, the report's chief investigator and author.

After parents are deported, the researchers found that families remain separated for long periods, with child welfare agencies and juvenile courts often moving in to terminate the parental rights of deported immigrants. Children who don't have other immediate family are then put up for adoption. The deportation of undocumented immigrants in 2011 has left 5,100 children languishing in foster homes.

The researchers concluded that controversial federal programs such as Secure Communities, which allows federal authorities to screen fingerprints of those arrested by local police in order to detect undocumented immigrants, has turned parts of the country into deportation hot spots "where families are being torn apart."

All of the previously mentioned actions were taken against people of color. As we traverse through the door of United States history we should be able to have a clearer picture of our future in this country. In seeking reform we have allowed the ultra right wing of the Republican Party, and the government in its totality, to criminalize a social working class movement by creating the term "Illegal Alien."

We have to respond to the fascist alliance that has been formed by the ultra right wing of the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, neo Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan, Minutemen and the Tea Party. Let us begin to build a movement of our people that can defend our future generations.

In conclusion, we pose this question: Are the Mexican people affected by the question of Genocide?

Consider what the formal international definition of genocide as a crime against humanity is:

On December 9, 1948, Resolution 260 {III} A of the United Nations General Assembly adopted a "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide," declared entered into force on the 12th of January 1951, stating:

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, is genocide, as such:

A) Killing members of the group
B) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
C) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
D) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
E) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

M.L.N.M.

Jericho Amnesty Movement to Free All Political Prisoners
National Meeting in Los Angeles, February 18-19

Even as political prisoners are being released in Burma (Myanmar) and Egypt, even Palestinians held by Israel, and elsewhere around the world, the U.S. continues to hold freedom fighters and political dissidents in state and federal prisons. Some of the longest held political prisoners in the world are being held captive here in the U.S. and in California. These unjust imprisonments have not only resulted in suffering and even torture for the individuals held, but they have served to damage the liberation movements and freedom struggles from which effective, principled leaders have been removed and isolated.

The targets of COINTELPRO (the FBI-led Counter-Intelligence Program that sought to destroy the Black Panther Party, American Indian Movement and other revolutionary forces) like Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal have been joined by a new generation of prisoners from the radical environmental movement, the Black Riders Liberation Party, the Occupy movement, and others. In addition, the assassination, incarceration of principled of principled grassroots leaders in the 1960s and ’70s disoriented the transformational social and political struggle of that era.

The state’s counter-revolutionary and counter-insurgency operations then began to spread to preemptive mass incarceration, particularly of Black and Brown youth, through the drug war, Three Strikes, gang injunctions and other repressive measures. Prison-within-a-prison control units and 24-hour isolation, originally designed to isolate resisters and political activists from the general population, spread and became the norm in both state and federal systems. When COINTELPRO killed Fred Hampton and framed up Geronimo ji Jaga, there were about 200,000 locked up in all the prisons and jails in the U.S. Today, there are over 2,200,000 – 1/4 of all the prisoners in the world are incarcerated in the US.

Thus, the struggle to free political prisoners is integral to any movement for social and economic justice, particularly here in the US. Every such movement is inevitably greeted with repression, surveillance and infiltration by the state and attacks by other reactionary forces and elements in society. The situation of the political prisoners also focuses attention on the injustice of the entire “criminal justice” system and the prison-industrial complex of preemptive mass incarceration of youth of color. But in freeing our prisoners and resisting such attacks, we create a dynamic that strengthens the forces of liberation and builds communities of resistance. In recent months, we have overturned the death penalty against Mumia, won acquittals and dismissal of charges in the case against the San Francisco Eight, and built active legal/political defense campaigns around those arrested in the Occupy movement here in southern CA and nationally.

The Jericho Amnesty Movement to free all political prisoners invites your participation in this vital work, in writing to and materially aiding the prisoners, and in building survival programs like the Family Transport to Prisoners program and the Break the Lock prisoners’ literature project. Jericho is holding its annual national meeting in Los Angeles this year, where LaaLaa Shakur, National Youth Coordinator of Jericho, serves as Chief of Staff of the Black Riders Liberation Party (BRLP). L.A. has one of the largest, most youthful and dynamic chapters of Jericho. Through the BRLP and Anti-Racist Action, which both participate in the local chapter, Jericho reaches out to hundreds and hundreds of prisoners throughout California and across the U.S.

Jericho Amnesty Movement

National Meeting

Sat.-Sun. Feb. 18-19

Southern CA Library for Social Studies
6120 S. Vermont Ave., L.A.

Political-Cultural Event

Sat. Feb 18, 7-9:00 PM

Danza Cuauhtemoc, Theater by ex-PP Jihad Abdulmumit, Son Real (jarocho music), Hip-Hop/Spoken Word

Regional Gathering

Sun. Feb. 19 12-4:00 PM

Come meet national & local leaders in the struggle to free political prisoners and help shape campaigns in CA and on the West Coast for Romaine ‘Chip’ Fitzgerald, Ruchell Magee, Dr. Mutulu Shakur, General T.A.C.O. of the Black Riders, Patrice Lumumba Ford and other political prisoners in this region.

Donation requested for program and meals.

Jericho Amnesty Movement, L.A. chapter
323-901-4269
jerichoamnestylosangeles@gmail.com
www.the jerichomovement.com

The national Jericho meeting will also provide opportunities for local community people to participate. On Saturday evening, February 18 from 7-9:00 PM, Jericho will hold a political/cultural evening at the Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research, 6120 S. Vermont Avenue between Slauson and Gage in south L.A. The program will feature theater by former political prisoner Jihad Abdulmumit, the national co-chair of Jericho, along with Danza Cuauhtemoc, and performances by Son Real, a jarocho (Afro-Mexican) band, and hip-hop/spoken word artists from the Black community. The event will be a fundraiser for Jericho. A dinner will be served for an additional donation.

The next day, Sunday February 19 from noon to 4:00 PM, also at the Southern California Library, Jericho will host a local and regional gathering and community speak-out. People can learn more about and help shape campaigns on behalf of political prisoners in this region, including Dr. Mutula Shakur, Ruchell Magee, Gen. T.A.C.O. of the Black Riders, and Romaine “Chip” Fitzgerald, a former Black Panther who is one of the longest-held political prisoners in the world. There will also be opportunities to write to political prisoners, and to find out more about the Family Transport to Prisoners program and the Break the Locks literature to prisoners program. Lunch will be served for a donation.

For more information about those and other campaigns, including an educational film series about the political prisoners, letter-writing, visiting and providing educational resources and material support to political prisoners, join our list serve with news and updates about political prisoners and local activities:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jerichoamnestycoalitionla

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May 1st General Strike

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Create Living-wage Jobs and Guarantee the Right to Organize! Repeal NAFTA & CAFTA!
Reverse Global Warming and End Pollution of Air, Water and Soil!

FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE:
End all Overt and Covert U.S. Wars and Military Intervention!
Bring the Troops Home - Fulfill Promises to Veterans!
Respect Indigenous Sovereignty! End Racism and Colonialism!

FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES -- END THE POLICE STATE:
Repeal NDAA, Homeland Security and the USA PATRIOT Act!
End the Drug War! Stop Mass Incarceration and the New Jim Crow!
Stop Police Brutality and Prison Isolation! Free All Political Prisoners!
Abolish the Death Penalty!

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Equal Rights for All without Regard to Gender or Sexual Orientation!
Protect Reproductive Rights and Personal Privacy!

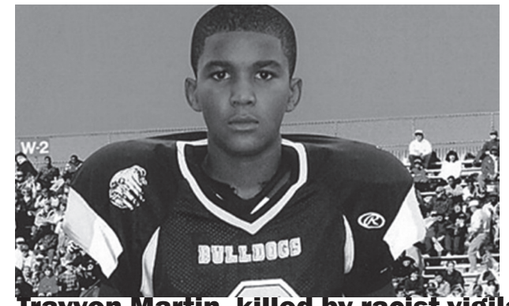
ARA-LA/PART endorses the call: No Work-No School-No Corporate Commerce!
All Out in the Streets!

Join the Four Winds Peoples Power Caravans & convergence
May 1, 2012, 7:30pm General Assembly, Pershing Square, L.A.

Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

TURNING THE TIDE

All Out in the Streets! May 1 General Strike!



Trayvon Martin, killed by racist vigilante in Sanford, FL, February 2012.

Kendrec McDade, killed by racist cops in Pasadena, CA, March 2012

Gerardo Perez-Ruiz, killed by paramilitary border vigilantes in Eloy, AZ, April 2012

Jason Smith, beaten dead by racists in Louisiana, July 2011

NO MORE! - NO MAS!

Christian Gomez, died on prison hunger strike in California, February 2012

GENERAL STRIKE	HUELGA GENERAL
for human rights	para derechos humanos
for peace	para la paz
for justice and equality!	para justicia e igualdad!

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All Out for May 1 General Strike!

Join the Four Winds Peoples Power Caravans and Convergence!

By Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***

By the time you read these words, May Day, International Working Peoples Day, will be nearly upon us. Six months of political struggle, organizing and alliance building since the call for a May 1 General Strike first emerged at Occupy Los Angeles in early November will reach fruition. The General Strike was designed to exert peoples power, and enable Occupy to again transform the paradigm of the possible as we did with the Occupations themselves in September and October. But it is only another step forward in the process of direct action, and of creative and critical political, social and economic reconsideration, expression and experimentation.

That's why we will end the day on May 1 in Los Angeles with a General Assembly in Pershing Square devoted to international solidarity and a consideration of next steps. The May 1 General Strike is a means towards building lasting alliances and structures, neighborhood assemblies, Councils of the Unemployed and the Unhoused, that can chart a path forward for direct action and working and colonized/oppressed people's self-organization and self-determination.

The May 1 General Strike, as consented to by the Occupy Los Angeles General Assembly, is

For immigrant Rights!
For Economic, Social and Environmental Justice and Labor Rights!
For Peace with Justice!
For Civil Liberties – End the Police State!
For Housing, Education and Health Care as Human Rights!
For Women's Rights, LGBTQ Rights and Gender Equity!

Called for by the General Assembly of Occupy LA on Nov. 14, it was reiterated after the successful Occupy the Ports action in December, ratified and endorsed by Occupy the Hood in Los Angeles, and is spreading via the Occupy movement around the US and internationally. The May 1 General Strike is a bold step forward for Occupy on the path of community engagement. In LA, the main vehicle for this has been the Four Winds Peoples Power bike/car caravans and convergence. Occupiers and our allies will be converging on downtown LA at 6th and Main, the area of Skid Row undergoing intense gentrification and police repression, for a protest action in the financial district from four directions:

South Wind, working with the Black Riders Liberation Party, Black churches, the formerly incarcerated people's civil rights movement, Mexicano/indigenous groups, and students, will come north on Central Avenue from Cal State Dominguez Hills, via Compton, Watts and South Central Los Angeles. We will be joined along the route by convergences from the Crenshaw corridor and elsewhere by Rise Up LA, Youth Justice Coalition, groups working around the prison-industrial complex and against mass incarceration, as well as labor mobilizations. The Black Riders are holding build-up rallies with food and clothing distribution, with the co-sponsorship of Occupy LA.

East Wind, working with the Brown Berets, Corazon del Pueblo and other grassroots groups, will start near East LA College with a rally against police brutality at the Steven Rodriguez Peoples' Memorial at Atlantic and Cesar Chavez. It will proceed with a caravan towards downtown, with rallies along the way on the themes of education and health care as human rights. Students from CSULA are expected to join the caravan. At Plaza Olvera, they will unite with –

North Wind. Occupy San Fernando Valley will begin the day at 8:00 AM at Hermandad Mexicana Transnacional, 7915 Van Nuys Blvd. in Panorama City with a march through the heart of the Valley, bringing in immigrants, casualized and temporary workers and high school and college students, then "Occupy the Metro" to link up with the East Wind downtown via the Orange Line and Red Line. A separate strand will start at 11 am at American Reclamation, 4560 Doran Street, LA for a labor action in defense of mostly immigrant workers at a public-contract recycling facility, with a caravan down San Fernando Road to meet at Olvera St.

West Wind will commence from Ocean and Wilshire in Santa Monica, with participation from Occupy Venice, Topanga Peace Alliance, Culver City Families and Friends for Peace & Justice, Westside Progressives and others and proceed across Wilshire Blvd. with stops at the Veterans Administration on Federal to protest elite privatization of land meant to house veterans; a "Let them east Cupcakes" rally at Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, and a convergence with the Queer Affinity Group and Out and Occupy at the B of A on Wilshire & LaBrea, before stopping near MacArthur Park, scene of a May 1, 2007 attack by the LAPD on an immigrants rights rally, to march downtown for the convergence.

Once downtown, we will meet up with Occupiers at 2:30 staffing a welcome tent, wellness tent and food distribution in the Skid Row area, to start a mobile demonstration against the elite in the financial district, and join the Southern California Immigration Coalition immigrant rights march and rally at 4:00 PM at Olympic and Broadway.

We will end the day (as stated above) with a General Assembly in Pershing Square devoted to international solidarity and a discussion and focus on next steps. We are planning on break out groups by both geographic location and common interest groups for small discussions, and depending on our numbers, possible General Assembly consideration of proposals for future actions. Affinity or working groups will form up to carry the ideas forward from May Day.

For more details, maps, schedules and other information about how you can get involved in building to the May 1 General Strike and beyond, check out

www.occupymay1st.org,
occupymay1st@gmail.com,
323-250-MAY1

or check us out on facebook and twitter or via any of the Occupy Los Angeles sites, FB pages and other social media.

A Call for Action, Aid and Assistance

By the New African Collective Think Tank (NCTT), Corcoran SHU

Greetings, sisters and brothers, a firm embrace of love and solidarity to you all. As you know, we are in the midst of a contentious struggle for social justice and economic equality on multiple fronts. We've had both victories and setbacks; some as a result of the efforts of an entrenched elite, others by own missteps. Yet what is clear from our successes is that, where we've galvanized the support of our friends and neighbors, forced corporate mass media to take note of the will of the common man/woman, there we have won. In this spirit of mutual sacrifice and collective success, we call on you to stand with us. There are two areas in which we ask your assistance:

1) Support the UN Petition on behalf of CA prisoners in administrative segregation (AD SEG) and Security Housing Units (SHU). The Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law has prepared a petition to the United Nations Working Group on Arbitary Detention, opposing long term solitary confinement/isolation in CA, considered by most experts, and defined by treaty, to be torture. We hope this will lead to the abolition of the practice or an improvement of the conditions. There was a demonstration at the Reagan State Building on March 20 in support of the petition. [Editor's note: This call for support, mailed in February to ***Turning the Tide***, was not received until more than 6 weeks later, after the demonstration, an example of the kind of harassment, isolation and political suppression the prisoners are subjected to.—*Ed.*] If you do not have access to the petition, draft one of your own, on paper or on-line. Please send, fax or email the signatures to:

Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law
Attn: Peter Schey, Attorney [Bar # 58232]
256 S. Occidental Blvd.
Los Angeles CA 90057
213-388-8693 x 301
FAX: 213-386-9484
www.centerforhumanrights.org

Your petition and signatures will then be attached to the UN petitions and submitted to the working group. Your assistance is needed and appreciated!

2) Support the May 1 General Strike called by the Occupy Movement. On May 1, the Occupy Movement is calling for a General Strike, and of course we support this as we have from the beginning. However, the continued decimation of the Occupy camps, marginalization by corporate mass media, and the lack of outcry by the people, the 99% whom the movement represents, make it clear the insight that's been offered has not been disseminated or adopted broadly or quickly enough to prevent the encirclement campaign we should've seen coming and is being employed.

It's the lack of adoption of an articulate national platform, and implementation of a strategic approach that allow media like ***USA Today*** to run op eds titled, "Lacking clear goals and leaders, Occupy Movement Fizzles." Because of the essential democratic imperative it represents to the most disenfranchised, unrepresented and underdeveloped, the Occupy movement **must** survive, and to do so it must evolve, organize and build to win!

We urge people to consider our contributions to developing a strategic approach, unified platform and organizational base, as articulated in two recent pieces, "California Prisoner Hunger Strikers Propose 10 Core Demands for National Occupy Movement," and "A Discussion on Strategy for the National Occupy Movement from Behind Enemy Lines," both published in the San Francisco Bay View newspaper (www.sfbayview.com). Please disseminate them as broadly as possible to Occupy activists and organizers and all who would support these demands. [Editor's note: Both pieces are excerpted in this issue of ***TTT*** and have also been forwarded to Occupy Philly, which is trying to put together a democratic, transparent, horizontal, participatory national Occupy gathering in Philadelphia in July.—*Ed.*] We urge you to embrace these demands, and the approach of uniting the Occupy movement and Occupy the Hood with grassroots community work among the most oppressed and exploited. This would instantly silence our critics and give the broad masses goals around which to be educated, organized and mobilized.

We encourage all who read these words to strike, or call in sick, or go out in the streets on May 1, or if you can't, find some other means to support the General Strike. It is only through sacrifice that victories are realized, mutual interests are solidified, and unity of purpose forged.

Michael Zaharibu Dorrough, #D83611, J. Heshima Denham, #J-38283,
Kambui Robinson, #C83820, CSP COR SHU, PO Box 3481, Corcoran CA 93212

ALL OUT MAY 1 GENERAL STRIKE!
NO WORK! NO SCHOOL! NO CORPORATE COMMERCE!
TO THE STREETS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE, EQUITY & JUSTICE!
JOIN THE FOUR WINDS PEOPLES POWER CARAVANS!

Updated:

The US Government War Against the Black Riders

by the Black Riders, the new generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense

For Black youth throughout the US, especially in Watts and South Central LA, Wolverine Shakur, AKA General T.A.C.O. of the militant Black Riders Liberation Party is a leader, a strong father and husband, a bold warrior, a ghetto hero and a down brother. Black people identify with the battle he has fought against the evil forces of white racism and reaction. They identify with this principled revolutionary struggle against the capitalist system that inevitably spells misery, suffering, and genocide for the mass of Black people held captive in Amerikkka.The Black Riders played a pivotal early part in unleashing the new wave of Black militancy that's been taking place. In 1996, General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out, AKA Wolverine Shakur) came together with other former Bloods and Crips in unity and created the groundwork for the resurrection of the Black Panthers, under the official name Black Riders Liberation Party. We are the new generation, and we consider ourselves to be faster, stronger, smarter and upgraded. They formulated a basic Black Commune program while in YTS prison (calling for many points as in the original 10-point program of the BPP for Self Defense, like full employment, housing, education and an end to police terrorism, and some new points, such as demanding proper medical care for AIDS victims and an immediate end to white capitalist smuggling crack cocaine into the Black community). They were eventually released to the streets and took action. Their first step was an attempt to deal with one of the most immediate and injurious symptoms of oppression – police brutality!

Armed with law booklets, video cameras, camouflage fatigues and Black karate skills, bats, knives and any other legal weapons, they created the Watch-a-Pig program and began to patrol Watts and South Central L.A.'s poor Black community -- monitoring the police, observing arrests and educating brothers and sisters of their armed self-defense rights. Their determined resistance to police terrorism produced a decrease in police harassment in areas they patrolled. Panther Power to the Black Riders!

The increasing influence of the Black Riders in the poor Black neo-colony and our fierce defense of the human rights of our people caused hysterical reactions in the police forces and government. Gov. Schwarzenegger and Brown, LAPD chiefs Bratton the Butcher and Charlie Beck, and buster ass homeland security overseers like Tom Ridge made no secret of their hostility toward the Black Riders. They see our efforts to change brothers' and sisters' criminal mentality into a positive revolutionary mentality as a threat to their capitalist system. Black unity has always been seen by pigs and racist politicians as a threat to their control.

In April 2002, our National Spokesman Comrade Bulldog delivered a strong speech in front of San Francisco City Hall and denounced Pres. Bush's USA PATRIOT Act as racist. In his speech, he urged Blacks to defend themselves and oppose the imperialist so-called War on Terrorism. 45,000 anti-war demonstrators were present. Six months after the speech, Comrade Bulldog was assassinated by a mysterious undercover hit squad. Nobody was ever charged with his execution-style murder, despite appeals by his family to the so-called authorities. He was only 20 years old.

In this paper, it's impossible to even scratch the surface of the legally sanctioned paramilitary police attacks on the Black Riders Liberation Party. A simple catalog of all the martyrs of the movement, or those wounded or presently incarcerated on trumped-up charges as political prisoners or prisoners of war would take volumes. We will focus here on attacks against one leader of the BRLP, General T.A.C.O.

As General of the Black Riders, T.A.C.O. has delivered many fiery analytical speeches in Black 'hoods (communities) throughout the US and internationally on the Internet on the period in which intense urban rebellions occurred in major cities throughout the nation mainly because of some form of police brutality and oppression. Even though 30 years ago, the government's own Kerner Commission affirmed that white racism had to be held responsible for the rebellions, General T.A.C.O. was singled out as inciting Black people to revolt. His life has been disrupted by recurring official attempts to silence him forever. Despite many death threats on his life by racist pigs, this "Weapon of Allah (God)" has refused to give up on the new Black Power struggle. He will continue to "bang on the pigs" for life.

In Feb. 1998, LA County sheriff's deputies from the Lennox station and FBI agents raided General T.A.C.O.'s home. He was arrested for allegedly having a legally registered SKS assault rifle. Even though the charge was dismissed, he spent a year in prison on a parole violation. His wife, comrade Aryana Shakur, also was arrested for allegedly assaulting a police officer. During the raid, Comrade Aryana was slightly wounded, but recovered quickly. She was released two weeks after the raid.

In January 2000, after a major raid at our headquarters in Watts, General T.A.C.O. and 20 Black Rider warriors marched inside the 108th Precinct at 10:00 PM at night. He was arrested for allegedly assaulting two police officers. The case against him was dismissed after just four days, but he spent six months in prison on a parole violation resulting from the incident. This confrontation left General T.A.C.O. severely wounded, but he emerged out of political imprisonment stronger and put forth a renewed call for the release of all political prisoners of war. If there is no conflict, there will be no progress!

In August 2002, General T.A.C.O.'s home was raided by the Lennox sheriff's deputies on a search and destroy mission, but he was not home. After a six-hour armed stand-off with the pigs, three comrades were detained for an hour in pig cars. The Party's chief legal counsel James Simmons was called to the tense scene and forced the pigs to abide by the law during the standoff. Therefore, no bloodshed occurred. Comrade Aryana Shakur was arrested for allegedly possessing an M-1 carbine assault rifle. After a year of legal battles, the case was dismissed.

In August 2003, General T.A.C.O. was arrested for allegedly assaulting a Lennox sheriff's deputy, after the officer tried to brutalize a 16-year-old comrade. The trumped-up charges were later dismissed. In late August, General T.A.C.O., Minister of Public Relations Aryana Shakur, Chief of Security Nur Bey and Captain Nadia Shakur were all arrested. This clash happened after two white male deputies from the Lennox sheriff's station jumped out of their car and began to frisk Aryana Shakur.

Gen. T.A.C.O. (ctr.) at Tookie Williams funeral.

This aggressive search led them to fondle her private parts in clear view of her husband, General T.A.C.O. The officers repeatedly refused to bring a female officer to do the pat down. The trumped up charges this time were inciting a riot, assault on a police officer, and interfering with an officer's duty. This confrontation also left Capt. Nadia Shakur wounded. All four were released on their own recognizance three days later, and the frame-up charges were drastically reduced to a single misdemeanor. Aryana and Nadia Shakur's cases were both dismissed by the judge. The police responded with hostility, and stepped up helicopter surveillance and harassment of all Black Riders. We also had to pay an excessive fee for our impounded vehicle.

In February 2004, after helping Daude Sherills successfully organize the 100,000 Man March to call for an end to Black on Black violence between Bloods, Crips, Muslims, and Christians, General T.A.C.O. and four other comrades were arrested, for allegedly possessing two bulletproof vests and a box of 9 MM bullets.

This case was dismissed within three days because of an illegal search and seizure and lack of evidence, because of the criminal tactics the police used to capture us.

We are proud that none of these arrests were made due to infiltration or informants snitching inside the organization.

Despite these attacks, the Black Riders began to increase in size, membership and influence, and to spearhead more survival programs to meet the needs and desires of the people. These included the Kourt Watch program with free legal aid, the BOSS Black on Black violence prevention and intervention program, a petition for community control of the police, a Black Power Cultural Mountain boot camp, gang truce football games, the Squeeze the Slumlord project, and free food giveaways to homeless children and adults. The Watch-a-Pig program is still being implemented regularly because it is perfectly legal and necessary. The Black Commune is the vehicle for the ultimate drive-by against the fascist state. We must continue to confront the real enemy, educate the people about the nature of the system, and take the struggle to a higher level.

August, 2007, the FBI, LAPD and sheriff's deputies launched a military-style raid on Black Riders HQ in the Inland Empire with armored vehicles, with intentions to assassinate General T.A.C.O., but he wasn't there. He was arrested 3 hours later on traffic violations and held three days before being released.

Nov. 2007, General T.A.C.O., Mecca Shakur and comrade Stress were arrested in separate coordinated raids in northern and southern CA, for allegedly conspiring to possess machine guns, part of a supposed plot – never formally charged – to shoot up four police stations. After a massive campaign to "Free the BR3", the Black Riders defeated, by a judge's order, a prosecution attempt to impose a gang injunction and enhancements on the Riders. General T.A.C.O. sacrificed himself to gain his comrades' release, and he was sent to Corcoran State Prison for 1.5 years. He was released May 12, 2009. In June, the state strapped a GPS tracking device on his ankle.

July 2010, parole officers and police raided Gen. T.A.C.O.'s home. He was arrested for associating with other Black Riders, and told he was being arrested for ordering them to go to support Oscar Grant's family when killer cop Mehserle was on trial (the day before the verdict was expected). Released after two weeks, he was told he hadn't violated parole.

Sept. 15, 2011, Gen. T.A.C.O. was arrested again for associating with other Black Riders while driving down Crenshaw. LAPD Chief Charlie Beck issued a memo to the head of the Parole Board in Sacramento to try to stop his release. In the memo, Beck stated that Gen. T.A.C.O.'s "leadership of the party has caused numerous assaults on police officers and is an organized attempt to kill, harass or injure police officers." Meanwhile Occupy LA, Occupy the Hood and others mobilized to the court to demand T.A.C.O.'s release. Beck's memo failed because he sent it in too late, and T.A.C.O. was again released, with strict stipulations against political speech and association, shackled with the GPS modern day slave shackle. We consider this racist memo a shocking reminder and exposure, akin to the J. Edgar Hoover memo describing the Black Panther Party as the greatest threat to internal security. We have become racist Amerikkka's worst nightmare!

The court system in this country is increasingly becoming an important tool of repression on behalf of the exploiters. It's being used to try to crush the struggle for liberation of peace-loving poor oppressed people, not only to crush the conscious revolutionary, but to attempt to break the rebellious spirit of Black people, Chicano/Mexicanos and Puerto Ricans in general. This foul system of government is designed to oppress, exploit and intimidate all people who are not from the white Anglo-Saxon ruling class. From the violent responses of the police forces, systematic and undoubtedly calculated, it can easily be understood that the Black Riders, as opponents of this rotten system, are victims of an official conspiracy to destroy our leadership and organization. The oppressor must be harassed until his doom! He must have no peace by day or night! Free all political prisoners of war! When the prison doors are opened, the true dragon will fly out!

Black Riders Liberation Party
PO Box 8297
Los Angeles CA 90008
323 289 4457

Excerpts from:
CA Prison Hunger Strikers Propose '10 Core Demands' for Occupy Wall Street

by Heshima Denham, Zaharibu Dorrough and Kambui Robinson
http://sfbayview.com/2011/california-prison-hunger-strikers-propose-10-core-demands-for-the-national-occupy-wall-street-movement/

"The Constitution illustrates the complexity of this American system: it serves the interests of a wealthy elite, but also does enough for small property owners, for middle-income mechanics and farmers to build a broad base of support. The slightly prosperous people who make up this base of support are buffers against the Blacks, the Natives, the very poor Whites. They enable the elite to keep control with a minimum of coercion, a maximum of law – all made palatable by this fanfare of patriotism and unity." – Howard Zinn

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters:

A firm, warm and solid embrace of revolutionary love is extended to you all. These words by Brother Howard Zinn are particularly relevant to the survival of the evolving Occupy Wall Street Movement.

Most of you are familiar with the NARN Collective Think Tank (NCTT) from the programs and ideas that have come out of this body from both Pelican Bay SHU and here in Corcoran SHU, most recently our work in the Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition. Like the Arab Spring, and our own struggle to abolish indefinite confinement in sensory deprivation SHU torture units, the Occupy Wall Street Movement expresses a fundamental rule of materialist dialectics, the transformation of quantity into quality, expressed eloquently by the Honorable Comrade George Lester Jackson some 40 years ago: "(C)onsciousness is directly proportional to oppression."

The ruling 1% will never concede anything without struggle, which requires unity of purpose, broad-based organization, fluid strategy and effective tactics. Progressive movements in this nation have succeeded or failed based on how effectively they understood this reality. Following the Civil War, Reconstruction gains were repealed and Jim Crow was introduced. The Civil Rights Movement taught us the necessity of broad-based organization and accurate agreement of the opposition's center of gravity: their point of weakness. We learned not to underestimate the power of the ruling 1% and its state tools, when the Counter-Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) dismantled the Black Liberation Movement, and ushered in the world of greed, corruption, inequality and mass incarceration you have inherited.

As we watched the Day of Action unfold, witnessing the predictable brutal response of the tools of the 1%, with great effort we detached from our rage and analyzed the comments and responses of various pundits, common people, agents of the state and protestors. As you read this analysis, consider where the men who wrote it live: Here, in Corcoran State Prison, labeled the "worst of the worst," they've survived decades in solitary confinement in the SHU (security housing unit), one of the worst hell holes on earth. Out of despair and unimaginable cruelty and brutality, they forge hope for the beloved community. These men were leaders in the hunger strikes [last] summer and fall that involved over 12,000 California prisoners.

Three things immediately became obvious from that analysis:
1) The mass media and pundits were counting on the national Occupy movements to peter out and fizzle. Those who own the mass media want that message to be disseminated to undermine support for the movement.

2) Though most in this nation not involved directly in the occupations agree with our opposition to corporate greed and institutional inequality, there were no clearly articulated demands around which the movement could organize the broader masses.

3) This lack of clear demands and coherent strategic and tactical organization by the national Occupy Movement was undermining its intent, diluting its potential, and degrading its motive force.

The first step in defeating an enemy as powerful and organized as the ruling 1% is understanding the basis of their power. When you analyze opponents, you must see beyond the superficial to the point of vulnerability on which their power is based. Striking this point will inflict disproportionate damage.

It must be understood that radical social change is no different than warfare, and warfare is a form of power. Power systems share the same basic structures. The most visible thing about them is their appearance, what is seen and felt. The outward display of repressive power is a deceptive fabrication, a manifestation of insecurity, since power dares not expose its weaknesses. The key lies in determining what their point of vulnerability is, and to do so you must understand the structure of the power system and the culture in which it operates. We began this discussion with a concise analysis of just this point by Howard Zinn.

The real point of vulnerability in American democracy is the social and political support of its citizens. The key factor thus far in failing to harness mass support is the lack of broad-based demands around which people who may support our message but not our movement can be educated, organized and mobilized to join the movement and transform not only the nature and structure of U.S. society, but the WORLD.

To that end the NCTT Corcoran SHU has made a comprehensive analysis of statements from participants of all the national Occupy movements and some of those abroad and compiled these ideas into 10 core demands of the Occupy Wall Street Movement. We call on you to disseminate these 10 core demands to all the Occupy movements across the nation and the world. We call on all the Occupy movements to convene a national forum – online or at a national convention – to discuss the adoption of these 10 core demands as the definitive goals and organizing points around which the movement is based and the next level of our struggle is to be waged. These 10 core demands can be augmented or amended to take into account the broadest cross-section of the 99% possible and the collective will of the movement:

The 10 Core Demands of the Occupy Wall Street Movement National Coalition

1. We want full employment with a living wage for all people who will work. The US Declaration of Independence states in part "that all men … are endowed … with certain inalienable Rights; that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Life is a right and thus the means to live – work, making a living wage – must be equally guaranteed. If corporate business will not provide full employment even as they sit on trillions of dollars fleeced from the surplus value of labor, then the means of production should be taken from them and placed in the community.

2. We want an end to institutional racism and race- and class-based disparities in access to, and quality of, labor, education, health care, criminal defense, political empowerment, technology and healthy food. Structural features of US capitalism prevent broad cooperation between the 99% from various racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. We will no longer allow this divide and rule arrangement to govern our relationships.

3. We want decent and affordable housing for all people. Housing is a fundamental necessity. But government has consistently sided with Wall Street, who are responsible for the single greatest loss of housing in the nation's history[. F]ederal, state and local officials criminalize homelessness and poverty. The government should mandate a readjustment of home equity debt on all US homes so what people owe reflects what the properties are now worth. Empty Federal Housing Authority properties should be made into co-ops so communities can create decent housing for all.

4. We want affordable, equal access to higher education for all. We need education that teaches the true history of colonialism, chattel slavery, repression of organized labor, police repression and imprisonment as tools of capitalist exploitation, and the perpetuation of imperialism in US power systems and corporate financial markets. Speculative profiteering drives up tuition, leaving most in debt and pricing higher education out of reach for communities of color and the poor. Usurious student debt should be forgiven in full.

5. We want an immediate end to police brutality and the murder of oppressed people in the U.S., particularly in the New Afrikan (Black), "Latino," immigrant and underclass communities and among those protesting in this nation. We recognize the police and other state paramilitary agencies are, and have always been, the enforcement army of the ruling 1%. We recognize such brutal and unwarranted treatment is the daily existence of New Afrikan (Black), Latino, immigrant and underclass communities and people in this nation. Self-defense is a human right. Community organized oversight and self-defense forces should be organized to monitor and record police and defend the people. We will suffer no more attacks like those at UC Davis, no more Scott Olsens or Oscar Grants to be injured or killed by the tools of the 1%.

6. We want an end to the prison industrial complex as a profit base – from our tax dollars – for the disposal of surplus labor and the poor. We want an end to indefinite solitary confinement torture units in the US. Mass incarceration of people of color and the poor will no longer be tolerated. The prison population in the U.S. has exploded 600% since 1981. The continued indefinite confinement of human beings in SHUs and other supermax torture units must be abolished. True rehabilitation, such as vocational programs, access to higher education and community-based parole boards must become the new order of the day.

7. We want an end to all corporate and financial influences in the political process in the U.S. The nature of U.S. society has been of the rich, for the rich and by the rich[. This] marginaliz[es] the people. The U.S. will finally become a nation of the people, for the people and by the people, where only individual citizens have influence in the democratic process. Ban all lobbyists, donors and special interest groups from local, state and federal electoral and legislative processes.

8. We want an end to imperialist wars of aggression and sending our youth off to kill and die to enforce the economic interests of big oil and other corporate concerns and as an impetus to keep from addressing domestic ills.

9. We want a bottoms-up approach to economic development and labor-capital relations in the US. The state has aligned itself so intimately for so long with the interest of the ruling 1% that it has become enamored exclusively to a top-down approach. This has resulted in a 281% increase in the growth of wealth in the top 1% of this nation, while the bottom 90% have seen their incomes flat over 20 years. We must now uplift the quality of life from the bottom rung up – empowering the disenfranchised, and directing bailouts and subsidies to the people, not banks and billionaires.

10. We want a more equitable distribution of wealth, justice and opportunity at every level of society. There is enough food that no one need be hungry. There are enough unoccupied structures that no one need be homeless. We have enough educators, institutions, knowledge and technology that no one need be without a degree or skilled trade. There's enough work to be done that no one needs to be without a job. Only the stranglehold of the super-rich 1% on every institution and apparatus of this nation's infrastructure ensures that their opulence and privilege are maintained at the expense of the 99%.

Please send this proposal to each Occupy Movement. In addition, we call on each individual Occupy Movement to begin organizing in and with the underclass communities in your city or town. We call for all my brothers and sisters in the ghettos, projects, barrios and trailer parks across this nation to begin organizing with Occupy around collective programs that can serve to begin realizing these 10 core demands by our unity and contributions alone. The NCTT, both here in Corcoran SHU and Pelican Bay SHU are committed to making meaningful contributions to the development of such community action programs, which we will outline in our next communication.

There are some 47 million people in Amerika living below the poverty line, another 150 million or so barely getting by – almost two thirds of this nation's population, all of them part of the 99%. It is here that we will find our most lasting support, and thus it is here that you must begin forging meaningful ties. These are overwhelmingly New Afrikan (Black), Latino, immigrant and poor communities.

You champion us all with your ideas and the courage of your convictions, just as we continue to support you with our sacrifices and insight. It is now time to take the movement to its next evolution and ultimately to its inevitable conclusion: victorious revolutionary change.

Your greatest power lies in your unity and cooperation and ultimately your organizational ability. The power of the people far surpasses all the repressive violence attacking you/us, surpasses the wealth of the 1%, who will stop at nothing to silence us all.

This is a protracted struggle; there will be no 90-day revolution here. Victory will require sacrifice, tenacity and competent strategic insight. The question you must ask is: Are you prepared to do what is necessary to win this struggle? If you answer in the affirmative, commit to victory and accept no other alternative. The people, as we are, are with you. Until we win, our love and solidarity to all those who love freedom and fear only failures.

Send our brothers some love and light: See names and addresses on page 1.

Free Jeremy Hammond

Jeremy Hammond (born December 1985) is a political activist from Chicago charged in a criminal complaint with crimes relating to the December 2011 hack of Strategic Forecasting, Inc. (Stratfor). He is the founder of the computer security training website HackThisSite, created in 2003 following his graduation from Glenbard East High School. A genuinely conscious web developer, Jeremy Hammond is accused of using his computer savvy to attack conservative groups and State operators. He is being charged with providing Wikileaks the documents for their latest Stratfor release.

Arrest

On March 5, 2012, Hammond was arrested by FBI agents in the Bridgeport neighborhood of Chicago IL, ahead of an indictment unsealed the following day in the Lower Manhattan federal district court. He is one of six individuals from the US, England and Ireland indicted, due to testimony from a cooperating witness known online as Sabu.

Fox News in Manhattan was first to break the story based on "access to Sabu's handlers" of three arrests "on two continents," a sealed federal indictment for six, and a "separate indictment" for Hammond. The story was later confirmed by other news agencies when the court papers were unsealed.

The case is being prosecuted by the office of Preet Bharara, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. Hammond is represented by Elizabeth Fink, "a firebrand attorney" with the National Lawyers Guild. She won a settlement of $8 million against the Government of New York for ex-inmates of the Attica Commune prison rebellion.

Local profiles of Hammond by the Chicago press describe him as "connected to anarchist groups planning G8 and NATO protests." Another called him "a lanky 27-year-old poster boy for anti-capitalist 'hacktivists'" and "a rock star to anarchists and cyberterrorists worldwide." Supporters describe him as "one of the few true electronic Robin Hoods" in reference to a phrase by Hammond from a 2007 profile.

Previous Sentences

On November 29, 2010, Hammond was sentenced to 18 months probation and 130 hours of community service for mob action, by Cook County Judge Joseph Kazmierski. Hammond along with five others had been arrested on September 29, 2009 for tearing down a Chicago 2016 banner at Daley Plaza and burning it to protest the Chicago bid for the 2016 Summer Olympics. The state attorney for Cook County pressed charges for felony mob action, misdemeanor criminal damage to property, and misdemeanor resisting a police officer.

On March 25, 2010, Hammond was sentenced to four days in the Cook County Department of Corrections, for taking part in a confrontation with the controversial Holocaust denial writer and nazi sympathizer David Irving. Five Chicago residents, Hammond included, pleaded guilty to one count each of disorderly conduct on March 24, 2010 at Rolling Meadows Court House before Judge Edward Pietrucha. The five had been accused of wearing black masks, storming the Edelweiss restaurant in Norridge, Illinois, and allegedly "threw glasses and kicked over chairs" to drive out Irving's guests. During the melee, another restaurant patron was struck by a bottle.

On December 7, 2006, Hammond was sentenced to two years in federal prison and three years' probation after pleading guilty to charges of breaking into a computer system "and obtaining information." Based on information and chat logs provided by cooperating witnesses, Hammond was indicted on June 26, 2006 for "hacking into a politically conservative website and stealing its computer database including credit card information." At his sentencing hearing, the court heard that he was motivated by politics and not personal gain. Prosecutor Assistant U.S. attorney Brandon D. Fox said, "While Jeremy Hammond tried to make this about politics, we wanted to make this about what actually occurred, that he stole credit cards." Charges of 2.5 million dollars in damages was assessed based on $500 per credit card, for each of the 5000 credit card numbers in Hammond's possession. Prosecutors had sought up to the maximum 5-year prison term (Title 18 Section 1030 Computer Fraud and Abuse Act) and said they wanted Hammond immediately jailed for violating bail by failing two recent drug tests and being arrested on disorderly conduct charges. U.S. District Judge James B. Zagel disagreed with the prosecutors' recommendations, instead allowing Hammond to surrender to prison on January 3, 2007 for a two-year term. He also ordered a payment of $5,250 in fines and restitution; and imposed a three-year probation agreement prohibiting Hammond's involvement with hacker and anarchist groups until 2011. Hammond served his prison term at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) of Greenville, Illinois, a medium-security facility.

In 2005, Hammond was sentenced to one year's probation for misdemeanor battery to a police officer. Three Chicago residents, Hammond included, accepted a plea agreement where one count each of aggravated battery was reduced, while charges for resisting arrest and misdemeanor reckless conduct were dropped. Prosecutor Assistant US State's Attorney Erin Antonietti had told Circuit Judge Colleen Hyland that during a protest melee, police intervened when Hammond threw a bottle of "red liquid" (later identified as a plastic Gatorade bottle) at an officer. Defense lawyer Melinda Power attributed the melee to "anti-gay protesters" who "attacked her three clients and other members of Chicagoland Anarchist Network" at the annual Chicago Pride Parade on June 28, 2004.

Background

Originally from Glendale Heights, DuPage County, Hammond's political activism began at Glenbard East High School, where he persuaded school administrators to allow a 100-person student march in protest of the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Hammond was first arrested in 2003 while at the University of Illinois, "for spray painting BRING THE WAR TO UIC on a campus wall." His second arrest was in 2004, for possession of marijuana. Hammond's third arrest, at the 2004 Chicago Pride Parade, led to his first court sentence.

During the 2004 DEF CON event in Las Vegas, Hammond delivered a talk that encouraged "electronic civil disobedience" as a means of protest against the annual Republican National Convention and its supporters.

During the 2004 Republican National Convention protest activity in New York, Hammond was arrested for the fourth time "during a drum-banging protest."

During a march initiated by University of Illinois students on September 12, 2005, Hammond was arrested when police intervened after twenty marchers occupied Wicker Park's Damen and Milwaukee traffic intersection.

En route to the National Socialist Movement's December 10, 2005 rally in Toledo, Ohio, Hammond and two other Chicago protesters were arrested for contempt of court and detained at Lucas County Jail pending arraignment at the Toledo Municipal Court. A total of 25 people were arrested for violations relating to a court injunction that barred public gatherings. The injunction, signed by Lucas County Common Pleas Judge Thomas J. Osowik on December 9, 2005, was intended to prevent a recurrence of the October 2005 Toledo OH anti-nazi rebellion.

Between 2003 and his 2007 incarceration, Hammond was arrested ten times on charges of disorderly conduct and property damage during protests.

Elizabeth Fink, along with others from the New York National Lawyers Guild, (NY NLG) have taken up Jeremy's case in his defense. Their website and contact info can be found at http://fkolaw.com/. Jeremy has been transferred to MCC New York, where he will likely be for the duration of the trial or until a bond is posted. But for the meantime, Jeremy has already happily received letters and can be written to at this address; unfortunately, all the books that has been mailed have been returned, except for the ones purchased through Amazon or the publisher.

Jeremy Hammond 18729-424
Metropolitan Correctional Center
150 Park Row
New York, New York, 10007

There is also a Jeremy Hammond Defense Committee that has been set up which can be contacted at jason@freehammond.com. The committee involves immediate members of Jeremy's family. The donations that have been made so far have been helpful and are very appreciated, and all the money that as been donated will be used for either his defense fund or commissary.

Note from Editor: Benton Harbor MI is a mostly Black city, home to the Whirlpool Corporation, that was taken over by the state of Michigan and an appointed emergency manager to impose austerity and quash resistance to corporate domination. The Black Autonomy Network of Community Organizers recently sent out the following invitation:

Occupy the PGA

Benton Harbor, Mich. Senior PGA Golf Tournament

It's our honor and privilege to invite you on behalf of BANCO to an event scheduled for May 23-27,2012. We are committed to escalating the Occupy Movement to support human rights in housing in addition to the push back against bailouts for fraudulent banks. They are stealing our home and our lives.

Democracy is non-existent here in Benton Harbor. Joseph Harris, the Emergency Manager, must go. We have a dictator in Benton Harbor, Michigan!

The PGA will be played on a 750-million dollar, 530-acre resort near Lakeshore with a Jack Nicklaus Signature designer Golf Course, and with $500,000 condominums. We can not forget three golf holes in the stolen land inside Jean Klock Park.

If your schedule permits, attend on May 26, 2012; alternative action dates are May 23-25.Please let us know if you can accept the invitation to Occupy The PGA in Benton Harbor.

We will meet at Benton Harbor City Hall, 200 Wall St at 10:00 am every day. Then we will march our death march to the Golf Course. We will have speakers and food.

For more information contact Rev. Edward Pinkney, 269-925-0001

Chicago Grants Permit for May 20 NATO Protest

Once again bowing to public pressure, on April 4 the city of Chicago granted permits for a rally and march against the NATO summit planned here in May. The Coalition Against NATO/G8 War and Poverty Agenda (CANG8) also demanded the city waive the nearly $40,000 in fees to use a public park,and give a more favorable march route as well.

The permit is for a rally at noon on Sunday, May 20 at the Petrillo Bandshell in Grant Park - without the onerous fees and with the changes to the march route that the protesters insisted on.

Joe Iosbaker of CANG8 stated that the group was again victorious and warned the mayor and the Secret Service to respect the right to protest. "NATO is responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands in Afghanistan and Libya. These generals are spattered with the blood of the Arab and Muslim people, including those killed in Pakistan by U.S. drone strikes. And in Afghanistan, 250 children die every day from malnutrition." Iosbaker continued, "We have the right to march against these masters of war."

CANG8 has called for the Secret Service to respect the march route granted by the city. "Declaring the summit a National Security Event doesn't allow them to suspend the constitution," Iosbaker said.

CANG8 also calls on the mayor and the Chicago police to stop threatening mass arrests and to stop painting protestors as dangerous.

http://cang8.wordpress.com/

On the New Prison Movement

By the Central Committee of the Black Riders

Revolutionary Greetings! All Power to the People! Black Power to Black People!

Due to the hard work and determination of the Black Riders nationwide prison chapter, new prison recruits have soared to the thousands. We are proud to know that we are finally making gigantic leaps to defend our people against the racist US Empire's preemptive attack to cage and silence those of us who were bound to become revolutionaries on the streets. Now Black prisoners have linked up to the party to fight back and destroy the prison-industrial complex. Black Power salutes!

We must show the masses that the first wave of nationwide prison strikes was primarily an educational tool to build awareness and shine light on the oppressor's hidden actions. Now we must regroup and prepare sterner resistance to keep up the pressure with new generation Black Panther ideas, creativity and initiative. Attack as defense must be the rule of engagement for a people who face the urgency of extermination and genocide by being buried alive under concrete and steel.

Comrades inside behind enemy lines must build up the Black Riders with any available educational tools while comrades on the streets build up the support and resources to funnel large amounts of literature and books to those inside.

Action must be our greatest educational tool. We must have patience and revolutionary faith as we proceed from one stage to another. Comrades inside must remove the blinders of romanticism and realize the enormous damage done by the neo-colonial attacks on the overall community and "movement." We must be able to build new links of unity and support that will be able to withstand the new repression.

The enemy has attacked our lines of communication on many different levels, like returning letters we sent to people, blocking letters by accusing our party of being a security threat group, or just throwing away letters we have sent to comrades inside. Wardens and captains in different camps have jumped in to sabotage our revolutionary efforts. Sekou Toure teaches us that, "If the enemy isn't doing anything against you, you aren't doing anything." Remember that communication and information is power, and is 9/10 of war. Our party has proved time and again that there's always more than one way around a trap…. Added to this, the capitalist crisis has pushed the price of postage to high levels.

To defend ourselves against attacks on our lines of communication, we are requesting every comrade and supporter to send 2 stamps a month to the BRLP, PO Box 8297, L.A. CA 90008, in order to bolster our communications to maximum level. If you can send more, please do so because there are extremely poor comrades who need help. We must have discipline and build the revolution with whatever meager resources are available. As Frantz Fanon points out, "Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, and fulfill it or betray it."

If you are a prisoner in communication with the BRLP, and you have answered all seven questions to be a member, you are now a Black Rider comrade. You should report in immediately by writing a letter of confirmation to the Central Committee, stating exactly what you intend to contribute to the organization, so that you can be assigned a rank in the overall chain of command. If your letter is intercepted and confiscated, keep trying other avenues, like calls or having relatives on the street contact us. Push the party forward by educating others to the struggle until you can break through the repressive net. This will help defeat the enemy's evil machinations.

"The idea is to isolate, eliminate and liquidate the dynamic sectors of the overall movement, the protagonist … What we've got to do is prove this won't work. We've got to organize our resistance once we're inside. Give them no peace. Turn the prison into another front of the struggle. Tear it down from the inside. Understand!"

–BPP Field Marshall George Jackson

Every comrade in a position to do so must develop study circles that will double as a 'think tank' for fresh tactics to be employed inside and outside. We must accelerate the contradictions created out of our resistance. Strike out at the prison-industrial complex that's the last weak legs that capitalism needs to survive. Our goal is to guarantee that our most oppressed comrades' voices are heard loud and clear on the streets of fascist Amerikkka to educate our people. Expose the monster then move on him with unparalleled Black rage.

We must also link to other races and groups of like mind. We can maintain strong unity when we focus on the common enemy of all oppressed people. We should also strive to focus on BRLP Rule of Discipline #34: "Always remember that bulletproof Black love and unity is our goal to create revolution in fascist Amerika."

We must develop strong, productive lines of communication with many Africans trapped in Amerikkka's various institutions. When we begin to communicate (council), we can formulate a national agenda for the new prison movement. We can consider such tools as a one-page flyer with a small picture of Mumia, and a couple of paragraphs describing the injustice of his conviction, and how this same process is repeated over and over again on Black men and women throughout this country. Then we push a demand that all Black men and women held in concentration camps be free! Free all of them!

What this shows our brothers and sisters on the inside is that we are not just struggling for the liberation of well-known political prisoners, but we seek justice and liberation for all! And we must develop programs around this concept.

As the new prison movement develops, we can consider creating other flyers demanding that police brutality, corruption and racism (white supremacy) cease behind the walls. There are brothers and sisters being set up, wrongfully validated, visits denied, mail discarded, food being spat on, sentences extended and a host of other injustices. But we can't do too much too soon without proper security in place, so it's best to take it one step at a time. Comrades inside need comrades on the outside to maintain constant security, because those in prison are in a very vulnerable position in the hands of our enemies. Comrades on the outside are also a link to the outer society, information and an educational base of support.

There are new Black Rider comrades in prisons in the following locations: Lancaster, Soledad, Tehachapi, Vacaville, Crescent City and Corcoran CA, Licking MO, Windsor and Taylorville NC, Iowa Park, Rosharon, Woodville and Lovelady TX, Comstock, NY, Canon City and Olney Springs CO, Lebanon and London OH, Woodville MS, Shirley MA, McAlester OK, and Madras OR. If you are a prisoner who has applied and completed the answers to all seven questions to become a member, again, please communicate immediately with the Black Riders confirming your commitment and practice.

All Power to the People!

'If You Don't Know, You Better Ask Somebody…Who Does'

By The Conductor, the cyber-ground railroad, Mar. 24, 2012

http://www.cybergroundrr.com/2012/03/24/if-you-dont-know-you-better-ask-somebody-who-does/

"Where is the concern for Blacks when they are killed by other Blacks?"

It's a question that gets a lot of play, usually, when a racist murder has been committed against a Black person by law enforcement or private citizens who aren't African American.

Black people are just as hurt and concerned and angry when Black men die from gang violence, drive-by shootings and "being caught up" every single day, as we are when white racist representatives of governmental institutions (that are supposed to protect and serve us) and ordinary white racist citizens murder us in cold blood.

Black people are just as hurt and concerned and angry when Black women die from domestic violence – murdered by those who say they love us – AND gang violence AND driveby shootings AND "being caught up" as we are when white racist representatives of governmental institutions (that are supposed to protect and serve us) – like Mitrice Richardson and the L.A. County Sheriff's Department – and ordinary white racist citizens murder us in cold blood.

BUT:

1. If you are dependent on the mainstream media to tell you that, you will not see it; they have no stake in that.

2. If you are dependent on Black media, you may not see it there either; they may not have the resources to do it consistently.

3. If you are not in close proximity to Black institutions or Black people – in other words, if you don't know the folks that know – you are OOL – Out Of Luck.

Therefore, in answer to the question "Where is the concern for Blacks when they are killed by other Blacks" I say this: "Where is YOUR concern?" It appears that this question ONLY gets raised when Black people vent their RIGHTEOUS indignation and anger over unjustified, racist murders.

If YOU really cared, then you would know about the organizations that exist to stop the senseless, every day murders of Black people by Black people in your city:

1. You would know the names of these organizations
2. You would know when their meetings are
3. You would know where their meetings are
4. You would know the people who are a part of these organizations by sight
5. You would know the people who are a part of these organizations by name
6. You would go to their meetings
7. You would ask them, "What can I do to help you?"
8. You would ask your Black and mainstream media, "Why don't you cover these organizations on a REGULAR basis?"
9. You would give them much needed money
10. You would give them much needed money

Here in Los Angeles, California, a few of the organizations are as follows:

Southern California Cease Fire Committee; 2nd Call; Unity One; Unity Two; Professional Community Intervention Training Institute; Project Cry No More; Mothers of the Community; Unity in the Community; Peace in the Streets

Do you know the names of the organizations that exist in your city? Why not? I can just about pretty much guarantee you that there is at least one organization that does the nitty gritty, away-from-the-glare-of-the-camera work to stop Black-on-Black-violence.

I would also be willing to bet that these same people are in attendance at rallies and demonstrations protesting the racist murders of Black people by others.

For those of you who ask the question, "Where is the concern for Blacks when they are killed by other Blacks?" I ask you another question: What are you doing now? I mean, other than reading this?

That's what I thought.

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Excerpts from:
Discussion on Strategy for the Occupy Movement from Behind Enemy Lines

by J. Heshima Denham, Zaharibu Dorrough and Kambui Robinson, the NCTT, Corcoran Security Housing Unit SHU

"Beneath this conventional enthusiasm and ingratiating ritual toward the dominant power, you can easily perceive in the wealthy a deep distaste for the democratic institutions of their country. The people are a power they both fear and despise." – Alexis De Tocqueville, "Democracy in America"

Greetings, brothers and sisters. A firm, warm and solid embrace of revolutionary love is extended to you all.

We are all representative of a single socio-political and historic motive force. Yet those in opposition to our democratic aspirations are the very same political, social and economic powers that this nation has relied on to allegedly ensure the integrity of democracy, social justice and economic equality. This is a contradiction. Substantive change will only be realized through a comprehensive strategic approach, coordinated and conducted by us all. Simply put, we are a single movement, and for us to have the social impact necessary to compel progress we must proceed with this realization as out guiding ethos. We of the NCTT (New Afrikan Collective Think Tank) in the Corcoran SHU (Security Housing Unit) have a proposal on effective strategic organizing we'd like to share with you.

What's occurring today as it relates to protest (i.e., Occupy Wall Street, Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity etc.) is the unfinished legacy of the struggle for social justice necessary for the US to fulfill its democratic potential. This struggle is part of the rich and courageous legacy of abolitionists, women's rights activists, organized labor, populists, human and civil rights activists and other democratic struggles of the nation's past. Social revolution has always been imperative to this type of substantive change. This calls for the coming together of people – from different cultural, economic and ideological backgrounds – realizing the common interest inherent in this truth: that we all inhabit the same planet, breathe the same air, are part of the human family.

We began with a quote from De Tocqueville to illustrate the disdain in which the power structure in this society holds the people's democratic expression and the fear and resentment they hold towards those who challenge the status quo in capitalist Amerika. We represent nothing more to these overseers than billions in potential profit to be extracted from our misery. Our hunger strikes were the only way to resist the assault on our humanity that's the inevitable consequence of burying us indefinitely in these sensory deprivation torture units. The success of the Occupy Movement, like the hunger strikes, requires sacrifice and strategic insight. The kind of sacrifices being exemplified by courageous nationalists and activists like you – we love it, we love you and we stand with you.

Seizing the reins of history

Only when the people, the 99%, seize the reigns of history has the democratic destiny of humanity – unity, equality, self-determination, cooperation, freedom, justice and human rights – been advanced to any degree. Each step forward – from the Suffrage Movement, which established a woman's right to vote, to the nonviolent protests of the Civil Rights Movement that repealed segregation, to the empowerment and self-defense tactics of the national liberation movements that followed – was punctuated by a coherent strategic approach. Its relative success or failure has been equal to the resonance it found in the nation's mass psychology.

What's needed is the unified might of the 99%, most if not all of us speaking with one voice, animated by this same spirit throughout. We can't expect paths to social change to be laid by the forces of oppression, which means we must pursue self-determination and self-sufficiency, demonstrating the validity of our vision of society through social practice. We possess all the tools necessary to transform our occupations into practice programs that address the core inequities in the capitalist arrangement oppose by imbedding them in the most underdeveloped and disenfranchised communities of the 99%, where the effects of corporate greed and institutional inequality are most visible.

Who has done most of the work, most of the dying, most of the time in prison or on the unemployment line? Who has little or no interest in the maintenance of the current status quo? Who's been disproportionately affected by the sub-prime mortgage fiasco, corporate greed and political corruption? Invariably we must answer it is the underclass communities, ghettos, hoods, barrios, trailer parks and projects. Their unfortunate position and desperate historical relationship to the productive system forces this segment of society to the forefront of any revolutionary scheme.

Three pilot programs

We propose organizing an entirely new front for the struggle. Occupy Wall Street, Occupy the Hood and the underclass communities, each working in coordination, could prove an unstoppable force if organized and mobilized with unity of purpose. Each segment of this broader organizing force possesses mutually beneficial qualities whose impact far exceeds the sum of its individual parts. We want to urge all our brothers and sisters in lumpen organizations within these communities, no matter what set you claim, what nation you ride – Sureño or Norteño – no matter what hood you represent or crew you roll with, to support and defend these brothers and sisters from all aspects of the Occupy Movement as they enter your/our communities. Equally we want to urge all our brothers and sisters in the Occupy Movement to learn from the people as you enter and work with them. For some of you, it will be a new and sobering reality, completely outside of your experience, and should provide an uncensored view of the human misery and inequality in Amerika. Look upon the interests of the movement and those communities as your very own; the survival of the movement and hope for substantive change may well depend on it.

The three pilot programs we are proposing will require some structural organization among you. We suggest you adopt a democratic centralist structure which will allow everyone to air their opinions and suggestions in discussions on policy decisions. Those with the greatest knowledge and insight on the subject should have the greatest influence on the policy adopted.

Brothers and sisters doing vital work in Occupy the Hood chapters, we ask you to expand your relationship with the Occupy Wall Street Movement beyond the people of color working group. Enter a broader phase of community development and social organization, which will see a union of all of our social forces in the practical work of building a new basis for relating to the productive system. Occupy the Hood is the natural bridge between all aspects of the 99%. Only through a union such as this can our movement be transformed into a true social revolution. Those who've engaged in support for the five core demands in opposition to these sensory deprivation torture units, if you retain any influence in your hood, barrio, trailer park or community, we urge you to have those on the streets from your community, get involved.

The three pilot programs we propose are: 1) the closed circuit economic initiative; 2) the sustainable community agricultural commons; 3) the block vote democratic initiative. We will explain each here in basic terms and should you need detailed program formats or other help, you need only contact us directly.

The Closed Circuit Economic Initiative

The Closed Circuit Economic Initiative (CCE Initiative) is a cooperative economic venture designed to amplify local wealth by re-circulating it in the community in which it originated, while providing collective ownership of the venture to the community and movement.
It's possible to increase the economic capacity of a community by circulating its wealth in that community for a longer period, especially if the community controls the economic circuit in which exchange flows.

Prepare fliers outlining this initiative in clear, easy-to-understand terms. Produce a survey that asks each individual in that community the three top goods or services they most frequently spend most of their money on. Once these surveys compiled, we'll have the basis for our first economic venture based on the No. 1 pick. For example, let's say food is the area where the most money is spent. The first venture in this community's CCE Initiative would be a grocery store. A true community meeting can elect economic trustees for the CCE Fund: one from Occupy the Hood, one from Occupy Wall Street, and two from the community in which the venture is based. These four will collectively oversee the CCE Fund for that community, allowing those funds raised to be accepted only by those four persons together – no single individual will have access to the fund – and only for the CCE Initiative venture agreed to via the democratic will of all involved. This will ensure checks and balances are maintained and trust is assured.

Individuals in that community to contribute $1-$2 bi-monthly, along with their names, addresses and phone numbers to the CCE Initiative for a six-month period. Funds will be deposited in the CCE Fund's account. We will hire only people from that community or from the local Occupy who are unemployed. Occupy Wall Street activists with accounting, business, tax, zoning, law, real estate, grocery or other related expertise should provide that expertise to ensure the success of these ventures. Once established, we need not worry about patronage because those who own the venture – the community itself – will, of course, shop in their own grocery store and encourage others to. All the profits, minus overhead, will go back to the CCE Fund with 60% being paid out monthly to all CCE Initiative registrants – those with a CCE certificate of contribution – in the form of a dividend check, the other 40% gaining interest in the CCE fund. In the next six months, we purchase a support venture, one that contributes directly to the initial venture; let's say a bakery. The grocery store will purchase its baked goods inventory exclusively from the CCE Initiative bakery. Again, the bakery will hire only people from that community or local movement without a job.

The CCE Fund can then turn its attention to establishing a local credit commons, where the community can invest in its own people's interests, to promote community prosperity and meet human needs. Here, people from the community and local movement can get micro-loans, home and auto financing, and standard banking services. In this way, the underclass community becomes independent of the competitive capitalist economy through unity, cooperative economics and collective work, distribution of wealth and ownership. Regardless if you contributed $1 or $2 or your specialized knowledge and insight, you'll receive an equal share of dividends. By means of the CCE Initiative, we can clearly demonstrate cooperation serves the interests of the 99% where competition has clearly been unequal to the task.

The Sustainable Community Agricultural Commune

Chronic poverty and underemployment – the legacy of corporate greed and political corruption in Amerika – can be directly linked to chronic disease, high obesity rates and the plethora of health problems that accompany them. Of equal concern is the ecological impact of multinational corporate agribusiness, from the exploitation of the Third World to environmental damage from transport. Yet it's within our power to change this dynamic by embracing sustainable urban farming as a viable alternative. Throughout the underclass communities of Amerika, there are vacant lots that we can reclaim and transform into urban gardens. These will feed the communities healthy and nutritious food, and provide a significant source of revenue.

Less than 2% of the food consumed in metropolitan areas in the U.S. is grown there. Urban areas consume billions of dollars of food each year, including junk food, sodas, fast food and processed snacks that, unfortunately, are staples of many poor folks' diets because the stuff is cheap and filling. But if our food was locally produced, it would be healthier and cheaper than if you bought it at your supermarket. It would be a source of revenue for the community by selling the surplus to local chefs, restaurants and our own farmers markets, while relying on organic and other agricultural advances to increase both quality and yields.

We call on Occupy Wall Street and Occupy the Hood to link with local underclass community organizers and pool their assets, expertise and labor to educate, organize and mobilize the community's residents for the sustainable community agricultural commune (SCA commune). Our first step will be in canvassing the community, distributing fliers to everyone, about our intention of building the SCA commune. Then go through the process of cataloging each square yard of land, no matter how large or small the plot – who owns it, and what it will take to get it zoned and secured for community use.

We encourage the movement to reach out to conscious businesses like ***Greenaid***, an L.A.-based guerilla gardening company that makes clay, compost and seed balls that can be tossed in derelict urban areas to make them green spaces. Our urban farms will provide a safe place of peace and prosperity for our people, our children and our youth to fellowship as they build a brighter future for themselves, their communities and this world, all from the power of their hands, heads and hearts.

The Block-Vote Democratic Initiative

The ruling 1% has successfully hijacked the political process in Amerika. Few people vote in underclass communities because the disparities that are responsible for the human misery in these communities are institutional and systemic to U.S. capitalist economics. No matter whom they vote into office, their plight does not change. Before the sleeping giant of underclass democratic power – the poor man and woman's vote – can be strategically harnessed, there must be some assurance that their interests will be realized. What we propose in the Block-Vote Democratic Initiative (BVD Initiative) is to do just that by bypassing these corrupt politicians altogether. Put the policies we, the 99%, support on the ballots of local, state and national elections via petition with a simultaneous voter registration "block" comprised of Occupy Movement activists and entire underclass communities, so the sheer number of affirmative votes passes the policy measures outright.

There are three possible measures reflective of our 10 core

demands we are fairly certain would find overwhelming support in underclass communities across Amerika:

1) A total ban on all corporate and financial influences, including lobbyists and "strategic analysts," from any aspect of the electoral process. Only individuals should be able to influence the polls with their votes and campaign contributions.

2) Establishment of community based parole boards, with a panel from the community where the offender actually lived and would return, determining when an indeterminate term – such as 25 to life, three strikes etc. – has been sufficiently satisfied and he or she is ready to return home.

3) Establish universal health care for the poor. All individuals making under $25,000 a year and families making under $50,000 a year should be provided access to a comprehensive universal health care system

Such measures would pass overwhelmingly in the underclass communities of Amerika, serve to empower those most disenfranchised segments of society, and improve the quality of life for over 100 million people in the U.S

It is our sincere hope you all see the merits of what we propose here and act in accordance with it. In any conflict resolution scenario, the first step that should be made is a strategic analysis of yourself and those forces aligned against you to ascertain your relative strengths and weaknesses. If this is done correctly, we can calculate the prospects of victory or defeat. Conflict resolution and warfare are based on identical principles. Sun-Tzu, in his sage masterwork, "The Art of War," stated, "If you know your enemy and you know yourself, you need not fear the outcome of 100 battles." It's clear the 1% are pursuing a course of encirclement, isolation and marginalization against the national movement. They hope that their control of the mass media and a lack of broad-based organization in the movement will allow them the opportunity to erode support for it, isolate it from positive public opinion and ultimately destroy it. It's a strategic approach that has worked for them in the past. This is possible only if we allow it.

The most prudent way to counter such an attempt is to place the movement in a position of invincibility, while simultaneously redefining the nature of the conflict itself. The movement is strong – we've shown that on every front, be it on the streets or behind these walls – yet it's largely unanchored to the material interests of those we represent. A seed in the ground is easily uprooted, a tree with deep roots, however, is a monumental task to remove. We want you to understand what you are involved in and what's at stake. You are on the cusp of making history, of quite literally changing the world. Right now you have it within your hands to transform the nature and structure of the most powerful nation on earth, and thus transform the world.

You represent the ongoing struggle for democratic change in the U.S. A historical legacy reaching back hundreds of years is now in your hands. The means for victory are at our collective fingertips; you need only reach out and seize this opportunity. Will it be easy? Of course not. Nothing of value comes without cost or sacrifice. Power concedes nothing without demand. But what must be understood is that we, the people, the 99%, are the most powerful force in this world and our cause is just. Proceeding from this truth with strategic intent we cannot lose. We are on the right side of history. Our ideas are moral; our cause is just.

Yes, the corporate-political power structure is authoritarian, hypocritical and avaricious. Greed and corruption define the very fabric of U.S. institutions and power considerations. You are expressing the frustration and hostility the people already feel. But still this is not enough. There must be a qualitative transformation in that moral outrage. Demonstrating the righteousness of our cause and moral integrity of our ideas, while simultaneously embedding the movement within the population most adversely affected by the entrenched interests of this greedy and corrupt elite, our movement becomes a social revolution. Any hope of opposition to the successful realization of our 10 core demands becomes academic. The highest form of strategy is to win without fighting. If you succeed in waking the sleeping giant of potential lying dormant in the underclass communities of Amerika in pursuit of this egalitarian democratic imperative, we will have already won.

Should the 1%, or their tools, be fool enough to oppose the inevitable conclusion of such a social revolution, they will reap a fool's reward.
It is our sincere hope that you find value in our counsel and take up these ideas as your own. Our love, loyalty and solidarity to all those who love freedom, justice and equality and fear only failure. Until we win.

J. Heshima Denham

For more information on the NCTT Corcoran SHU or details on these programs, contact:

- **Zaharibu Dorrough, D-83611, CSP-COR-SHU, 4B1L-53, P.O. Box 3481, Corcoran, CA 93212**
- **J. Heshima Denham, J-38283, CSP-COR-SHU, 4B1L-46, P.O. Box 3481, Corcoran, CA 93212**
- **Kambui Robinson, C-82830, CSP-COR-SHU, 4B1L-49, P.O. Box 3481, Corcoran, CA 93212.**

Jericho Amnesty Movement update

The Jericho Amnesty Movement to free all political prisoners held a very successful annual national meeting on Sat-Sunday, Feb. 18-19, 2012, in Los Angeles at the Southern California Library for Social Studies. Delegates came from VA, NY, DC, Portland OR, Omaha NB, Tucson AZ, Boston MA, Chicago IL, Oakland, Watsonville, as well as many local activists and community residents. Workshops were held on strategies to free political prisoners, community outreach, fund raising, and strategies for 2012 and forward. There was participation from Puerto Rican independentistas, the Black/New African liberation struggle, the American Indian movement, Mexicano/Chicano forces, Asian activists, Irish Republicans, progressive Iranians, and others. A delegation from the conference, including members of the Black Riders and a former Black Panther addressed a special General Assembly of Occupy LA.

The weekend also included a number of political/cultural activities, such as a 'one-man show' on Black resistance by national co-chair Jihad Abdulmumit that incorporated participation by many people from the conference. People discussed important lessons and gains of the work, and campaigns developing for a books and literature to prisoners program and Family Transport to Prisoners program. There was an exciting report about the development of a new chapter in Omaha, and also the work being done around the case of Romaine 'Chip' Fitzgerald, one of the longest-held political prisoners. Plans were discussed for developing a California Clemency Campaign around Chip and others, such as Ruchell Magee and Hugo Pinell, who have been locked down for decades, as well as more recent political prisoners, such as those incarcerated from the Black Riders and in the "Green Scare." There were nuts-and-bolts presentations on fund-raising, on outreach and alliance-building, and on lessons from previous successful campaigns.

The conference was opened to the public on Saturday evening and on Sunday, and drew wide community participation from diverse communities, but particularly from Black youth working with the Black Riders in LA, Compton, Watts, Long Beach and Oakland. It was emphasized that as black youth play a leading role in struggles for the liberation of political prisoners, they face daily harassment and repression, and have political prisoners themselves, such as General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out), who was sent to prison in the Black Riders 3 case. He was put into the same cell in which one of the SF Eight had been held when arrested locally. He is out on parole with a GPS tracking device, and has twice recently been the targets of raids trying to send him back to prison. There was also a presentation from the campaign to Stop LAPD Spying under special orders 1 and 11, which have the cops filing "suspicious activity reports" with Homeland Security and the "Fusion Centers" on thousands of people, based essentially on racial profiling and targeting of protesters.

The Jericho Amnesty Movement meets locally in L.A. at the So. Cal. Library, 6120 S. Vermont Ave, on the 3rd Saturday each month at 5:00 PM. Next upcoming meetings are April 21 and May 19 (birthday of Malcolm X, Ho Chi Minh and Agusto Cesar Sandino). For more information, call 323-289-4457.

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We can't provide books or legal aid, or investigate individuals' innocence.

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WE WILL FIGHT FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT!

Saturday, August 25, 6:00 pm
So. Cal. Library for Social Studies, 6120 S. Vermont Ave., L.A.
jerichoamnestylosangeles@gmail.com 323-289-4457

Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

TURNING THE TIDE

We Will Fight from One Generation to the Next!

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Every 36 Hours:

Extra-Judicial Killings of Black People

by Arlene Eisen and Kali Akuno for *Malcolm X Grassroots Movement*

A human rights crisis confronts Black people in the US. Since January 1, 2012, police, security guards and self-appointed vigilantes have murdered at least 120 Black women and men. These killings are not random acts of violence or the work of rogue cops. The use of deadly force against Black people is standard practice in the US, woven into to the fabric of society.

The corporate media have given little attention to these extra-judicial killings. The few mainstream media outlets that mention the epidemic are unwilling to acknowledge the killings are systemic – embedded in institutional racism and national oppression. Nearly all the mainstream media sing the praises of the police and read from the same script that denounces the alleged "thuggery" of the deceased. Sadly, too many people believe the police version of events and the media's "blame-the-victim" narratives that justify these killings.

We've studied these deaths — including false and inconsistent claims by police, and witness reports that contradict them. From this study and peoples' experience, we reject the corporate media rationalization for the fact that in the first six months of this year, one Black person was executed every 36 hours. This disregard for Black life resulted in the killing of 13-year-old children, fathers taking care of their kids, women driving the wrong cars, and people with mental health or drug problems.

Nowhere is a Black woman or man safe from racial profiling, invasive policing, constant surveillance, and overriding suspicion. All Black people – regardless of education, class, occupation, behavior or dress – are subject to the whims of the police. Invasive policing is only one aspect of the comprehensive containment strategies to exploit Black people and smother resistance. To contain the upsurge of the Black liberation movement of the 1960s and '70s, to protect the system of white supremacy, the forces of institutional racism have worked through government at every level to destabilize the Black community. Schools, housing, healthcare, other social services and transportation in Black communities have been denied equitable provision and distribution of resources.

The U.S. maintains these injustices with the militarized occupation of Black communities by the police and a web of racist legislation like the "war on drugs", discriminatory polices like "three strikes" and "mandatory minimum" sentencing. The result is a social system that mandates warehousing millions of Black people and extrajudicial killings where the killers act with impunity and more often than not are rewarded and promoted for murder. Nothing short of the survival of the Black community is at stake when we consider the record.

This update proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that the institutionalized violence of white supremacy is not only alive and well, but is, in fact, intensifying. To complete the picture, we must take into account the extrajudicial killings and other repressive policies directed at other targeted peoples and communities such as Indigenous peoples, Latinos, Arabs, Muslims, and immigrants. These, in conjunction with the oppression of Black people, demonstrate that the U.S. government remains committed to maintaining the system of white supremacy created by the aggressive and illegal European settler-colonies.

This crisis can only be stopped through decisive action. First, the Black community must organize its own self-defense. Second, we must build a broad mass movement capable of forcing the government to enact transformative legislation based on our demands. The fundamental demand must be for a National Plan of Action for Racial Justice to eliminate institutional racism and advance the struggle for self-determination. The Black community itself will determine the specific contents of The Plan, drawing from the foundation of CERD (the Convention to Eliminate all forms of Racial Discrimination) and the DDPA (Durban Declaration and Program of Action).

We call on everyone who believes that decisive action must be taken by Black and other oppressed peoples to confront and defeat national oppression and white supremacy to join us in developing an independent, mass movement for human rights that builds power in our communities and will have the capacity to force the Federal authorities to implement a comprehensive National Plan of Action for Racial Justice. You can join us immediately by helping us secure 1 million signatures to our petition (see http://mxgm.org/trayvon-martin-is-all-of-us/), organizing Copwatch and People's Self-Defense campaigns, fighting for elected Police Control Boards, the demilitarization of our communities, and the reinvestment of the military and security budget into community reinvestment and social programs among other suggestions provided in our "Local Struggles" paper (see http://mxgm.org/no-more-trayvons-campaign/). We also encourage communities to organize their own grassroots crisis intervention, domestic violence prevention/control and mediation teams so families in crisis do not become so desperate for help that they compound their problems by calling 9-1-1 and inviting the police into their homes.

We also call all organizations and individuals who agree with the demand and framework for a National Plan of Action for Racial Justice to help us build the National Alliance for Racial Justice and Human Rights (NARJHR) as a structure that will help us develop and implement a comprehensive national plan that centers oppressed peoples' right to self-determination and the full realization of our human rights.

For more information about the Report or any of these action proposals, contact Kali Akuno at kaliakuno@mxgm.org.

Highlights from the Report

120 Black People Executed without Trial by Police, Security Guards and Self-Appointed Law Enforcers between Jan. – July 2012
12% were children under 18 years old.
18% were 18-21.
41% were 22-31.
15% were 32-41.
8% were 42-51.
4% were over age 52.
2% were of undetermined age.
71% of the lives lost belonged to people from the ages of 13 to 31. These executions happen nationwide: from north to south; east to west; in rural towns and large metropolitan areas. Like in the years of lynching, there is no geographic sanctuary. Yet some cities—especially in the South– execute Black people without trial in numbers disproportionate to the size of their Black populations. A significant proportion were killed because they suffered from mental health problems or were intoxicated and behaved in ways the police allegedly could not control.

What is the relationship between "stop and frisk" policies and procedures and racial profiling and these deadly encounters? In 43 killings (39%), police accounts cite "suspicious behavior or appearance" or traffic violations ("driving while Black") as the reason for their attempt to detain the person whom they eventually killed. 18% of deadly encounters began with calls to 9-1-1 to seek help in resolving "domestic disturbances". These included family members seeing assistance in dealing with mentally troubled people. 11 of those killed had violated no law or had not been involved in any harmful behavior were killed. That leaves only 36 people or 33% killed in the course of police investigating activity they define as "criminal".

Most of the people executed were not armed. Here is the breakdown: 47 had no weapon at all at the time they were executed. 40 were alleged by police to have weapons (including a cane, toy gun and bb gun) but this allegation is disputed by witnesses or later investigation. Police are infamous for planting weapons or deciding that a cell phone, wallet or other harmless object is a gun.

In the first half of 2012, police alleged that 38 of the people they executed attempted to run away from them. 20 of the people who were murdered allegedly pointed guns at officers and/or attempted to crash into them. Reports often do not mention if the officers were wearing uniforms or if the suspects had any way of knowing their assailants were not civilians.

The most glaring way that women's oppression enters the picture is in the high number of deaths (18%) that result from mothers, wives, lovers or other family members who call the police because they are desperate for help with their troubled, often frightening, kids and partners. Grassroots community crisis intervention and mediation would lighten the burdens that single mothers and survivors of domestic violence carry and also build towards more community self-reliance. As one mother whose emotionally troubled son said, "calling the police to calm a mentally ill child is like calling an undertaker to deliver a baby."

The "justice system" gives impunity to murderers. Their murders have sparked massive mobilizations, media commentary, calls for government intervention, lawsuits and endless legal wrangling. However, after the initial announcements in local news media, the lives of most of those who were executed are forgotten. The standard procedure in most jurisdictions is for police involved in fatal shootings to be given paid "desk-duty" while the department conducts an investigation of itself. The press applauds their fine records while it screams about the criminal records of the deceased. Almost all killer cops are routinely exonerated and quickly return to the street. Grieving families who invariably ask the modest question, "why did he have to die?" are ignored. If there is some demonstrated community outrage the case may be further investigated. The legal system almost never charges these executioners and even if they do, the killing continues. A number of families seek legal redress through the civil courts and seek financial restitution. After years of litigation a tiny minority may gain some solace from a financial payment. And the executions continue. 6 security guards and self-appointed law enforcers (including Trayvon Martin's killer and the Tulsa murderers) have been charged. 3 killer cops have been charged: one for vehicular homicide-DUI, two for manslaughter (Remarley Graham's killer and Christopher Brown's killer). That is, in 95 cases of extrajudicial killings, the legal system has only charged 9 people, less than 10%. The outcome of these charges is still pending.

For more information on this Report or to contribute updated information, please contact arlene_eisen@sbcglobal.net. "The Report on Black People Executed without Trial by Police, Security Guards and Self-Appointed Law Enforcers January 1 – June 30, 2012", was produced by Arlene Eisen and Kali Akuno for the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement (MXGM). Special assistance was given by Ajamu Baraka.

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FREE THE CLEVELAND FIVE

Operation: Entrapment - Cleveland

Federal agents claim they successfully thwarted plans to blow up a bridge in Cleveland, Oh. What was left out, however, was that the FBI was instrumental in plotting the potential attack. The actions charged were orchestrated by undercover agent provocateurs. Five men were arrested in Cleveland for conspiracy and the use of explosive materials. Prosecutors link Brandon Baxter, 20; Anthony Hayne, 35; and Douglas Wright, 26, to an anti-government plot to bring down a large bridge with the aid of at least two accomplices. The FBI links them to the Occupy movement.

A closer look at the complaint against the five reveals that although the suspects are believed to have expressed anti-government sentiments and disdain for major financial corporations, the impetus in the would-be bombing was the urging of undercover agents who had infiltrated a group of friends and encouraged them to consider acts of terrorism. Although the incident is still developing, federal authorities have submitted statements and recordings stemming from conversations their contacts had with the alleged terrorists, and unsurprisingly the mainstream media is largely ignoring one key problem with the federal probe: members of an Occupy Wall Street off-shoot were provoked to embrace terrorist-like crimes despite voicing from the start that they were opposed to such.

The complaint considers the operation to have started from an OWS style protest in Cleveland on October 21, 2011. There the FBI dispatched an unnamed confidential human source — CHS — who had been recruited by the agency to work undercover earlier in the year. The FBI describes the CHS as a felon convicted of at least six charges dating back to the 1990s, including cocaine possession and robbery, yet entrusted the source to attend the OWS meeting in order to investigate reports "of potential criminal activity and threats involving anarchists who would be attending." CHS singled out participants who "acted differently than the other[s] in attendance," including the accused, Douglas Wright. CHS forged a relationship with Wright.

An exposé by *Mother Jones* and the Investigative Reporting Program at the UC-Berkley reveals the FBI has 15,000 undercover agents and CIs, with some making as much as $100,000. What's more the FBI regularly dabbles in entrapment in order to encourage crime they can charge. The study shows that of 500 prosecutions in recent years relating to terrorism charges, the FBI used informants for about half of them. Of 158 prosecutions that ended in convictions, 1/3 were plots by agent provocateurs.

According to the criminal complaint, Wright and fellow self-described anarchists had been considering options "in order to send a message to corporations and the United States government." In an encounter on March 28, both Wright and Brandon Baxter said they did not want people to think that they are terrorists. On that same day, along with the undercover informant, the group drove over Valley View Bridge and the conversation turned to bringing a similar structure to the ground. "I could show you," said the informant, who then urged the group to exit the highway and investigate the bridge. The CHS then asked if they would be interested in purchasing blocks of C4 explosives, suggested to them that they need two, and then offered to put them in touch with another FBI agent, this time a 15-year veteran with a decade off the radar. At a March 28 meeting, Wright refused an offer to purchase "heavy stuff" from the agent. Later in the week, the officer asked them to consider purchasing a larger quantity of C4 at a discounted rate. Days later, the CHS insisted that Wright and Baxter act quick because they were "on the hook" for the explosives.

In the weeks leading up to the alleged attack, the FBI says that Baxter at one point said that the group had never agreed to blow up a bridge."The problem with the cases we're talking about is that defendants would not have done anything if not kicked in the ass by government agents," attorney Martin Stolar told *Mother Jones*. For their part, the FBI says this method is a plan for "preemption," "prevention" and "disruption."

The Cleveland 5 would greatly appreciate your letters of love, support and care. Four of the accused are currently being held at Youngstown Correctional. To write them, please address them as such:*

Stevens, Connor (#57978060)
Baxter, Brandon (#57972060)
Anthony Hayne (#57975060)
Joshua Stafford (#57976060)
Last Name, First Name
ID#, NEOCC
2240 Hubbard Rd.
Youngstown, OH 44505

Douglas L. Wright**
150 High St. NW
Warren, OH 44481

*Letters must be in pre-stamped envelopes. Remember letters are read before reaching the 5.
**Please be sure to include Doug's middle initial, L., when addressing letters to him as there are two Douglas Wrights at Trumbull County Jail in Warren.
If you would like to make donations via check or money order, please make the check out to Conveyor Belt Collective (who is handling our donations)
Send checks to:

Cleveland 5 Justice
P.O. Box 602117
Cleveland, OH 44102
cleveland5justice@gmail.com.

FREE THE N.A.T.O. FIVE

Repression in Chicago

Eight people continue to be held in jail in Chicago, arrested before or during the protests against the NATO summit in Chicago in May. Four face federal terrorism-related charges, and the others serious felonies, while the NATO generals responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands have left town to return to Afghanistan and plotting their next war. Brian Church, Jared Chase, Brent Vincent Betterly and Sebastian Senakiewicz have been charged under a State of Illinois anti-terrorism law passed after 9/11 that had never been used. Together with Mark Neiweem, they've been called the NATO 5 for the seriousness of their charges and because they were all targeted by undercover officers exposed by the National Lawyers Guild. The agents went by the nicknames "Mo" and "Gloves."

The NATO 5 were arrested without any evidence of their involvement in violence, other than the statements of undercover provocateurs. The first three arrests took place in an unlawful police raid of a home on Wednesday night, May 16, during which the police kicked in doors without presenting a warrant, beat up people, shackled protesters hand and foot, and then "disappeared" 11 people for up to 40 hours. The National Lawyers Guild and Occupy Chicago activists faced repeated denials by the Chicago Police in their attempts to locate those arrested.

The next two were arrested several days later. Again, no evidence has been presented other than the statements of the undercover police. Both of those men were held longer than the 48 hours required by law before being given access to use of a telephone or to speak with an attorney. What is important to note is that all the activists arrested were part of the "Fuck the Police" or anti-police march that took place on the south side of Chicago on Tuesday night. They marched on the streets of Bridgeport and wound up making some of the residents angry. They also taunted and messed around with police that were trying to control them with bicycles and keep them off the streets.

Additionally, the three activists that remain in jail are in the video of three Chicago police officers pulling them over in Bridgeport on May 9. The video, which went viral, features police questioning protesters and threatening them ahead of the NATO protest. They search the protesters' vehicle and threatened "pre-emptive police violence against those" who planned to attend the NATO summit protests.

One officer can be heard in the video saying, "We'll come look for you, each and every one of you." And, the police also say the now infamous lines among occupiers:

CPD Officer 1: "You like that, he knows these guys know, '68. You guys know all about '68. What did they say back in '68?"

CPD Officer 2: "Billy club to the fucking skull."

The three others who are still being held were involved in a protest action at the point when the police turned violent, causing over 70 injuries from baton blows, including many serious head injuries. Over 24 protesters had to be treated at area hospitals for broken bones, knocked out teeth, concussions and wounds requiring stitches or staples.

On top of the arrests and charges, the protesters are being held with outrageous bails: $1.5 million each for the first three facing terrorism charges; $750,000 for the fourth charged under the same state terrorism law; $500,000 for the last of the NATO 5; and as high as $250,000 for the rest.

It is the Chicago Police Department that is responsible for the violence that took place during the anti-NATO protests. The Chicago Police Department and the State's Attorney are violating the law and the Constitution.

Charges of terrorism, preemptive raids and prosecution, charges based on entrapment and violence against protesters are all standard procedure when the U.S. government declares a National Special Security Event, as they did with the NATO summit. These tactics were employed at the Republican National Convention in 2008, resulting in the cases of the RNC 8; the 23 anti-war activists raided by the FBI and subpoenaed to a grand jury for investigation of support for foreign terrorists; and the trial of Carlos Montes in Los Angeles. Now in Chicago, they've added the element of excessive bail.

The charges against the NATO 5 and the others are false. All these prisoners urgently need your solidarity. Please sign our petition. Share it with your family, friends, and co-workers. Signing the petition will generate a direct email to State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy, and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, demanding all charges be dropped.

http://nato5.occupychi.org/content/sign-here-free-nato5
Donate to the Chicago Bail Fund!
https://www.wepay.com/donations/143498
To send the NATO5 letters, address them to:
Brent Betterly #2012-0519001 Brian Church #2012-0519002
Jared (Jay) Chase #2012-0519003 Mark Neiweem #2012-0520023
Sebastian Senakiewicz #2012-0520030
PO Box 089002
Chicago IL 60608

FREE THE TINLEY PARK FIVE

Indiana Anti-Fascists Imprisoned

Saturday May 19, 2012 five men were arrested in Tinley Park, a Chicago suburb, for allegedly assaulting a number of white-supremacist organizers at a restaurant. Help us raise funds for their support and costly legal defense. One of the alleged "victims" was arrested on warrants for child pornography and another was arrested for possessing a firearm as a convicted felon. Bond has been set at nearly one million dollars for the alleged attackers. Funds are needed in order to secure adequate legal representation and ensure that their families are taken care of until they are released.

http://tinleyparkfive.wordpress.com/about/
This website does not condone or encourage the use of violence or illegal activities.

For unknown reasons, the Tinley Park Five are being relocated within the Cook County Jail quite frequently. Some inmates have been moved as many as seven times over the course of the last month. This is causing delays in their receiving correspondence. Books sent from major publishers seem to be getting to them more efficiently than other articles. Before visiting, please make sure to check the Cook County Jail website for visiting hours and current housing location. We're unsure of the motivations of these moves. It's possible that they are purely administrative.

It's also possible that these moves are a vain attempt to prevent the political prisoners from organizing and bonding with fellow inmates. A copy of *People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn was sent to each of the TP5 soon after their incarceration. One of the defendants reports that his copy of the book has people "lining up" to borrow it. Books and zines which do reach the TP5 are being circulated throughout the jail to inmates of all backgrounds. Contrary to the common image of willfully ignorant career criminals perpetuated by our media, prisoners are hungry for knowledge and education. Unfortunately, our "criminal justice" system places minimal emphasis on education and is slashing prisoner's access to libraries and educational opportunities.

We would like to encourage everyone to continue sending reading materials to the TP5 as well as all prisoners and to consider supporting groups like Books Through Bars and Pages For Prisoners.

Each and every member of the Tinley Park 5 are in great spirits. They are getting along well with the other inmates at Cook County Jail. Their two biggest concerns at this time are the safety of their family and friends, who are still receiving relentless threats of violence from the white supremacist community, and the boredom and anxiety that comes along with being imprisoned, especially not knowing how long they have til they will be released. Their support network is capably handling security concerns. The Tinley Park Five support network is also doing everything they can to help with with the monotony of prison life, but you can also help by writing letters, visiting, or providing financial support. The various acts of solidarity being shown by the antifascist, anarchist, and activist communities across the world are the fuel that keeps us all going through these stressful times. Thank you to everyone who has given a few dollars, written a letter, retweeted a link, shared a news story, sent a book or zine, dedicated an action to or visited them, assisted with security, and have otherwise aided in this campaign to free the Tinley Park Five. It's impossible to convey how much this means to both us and them.

https://www.wepay.com/donations/legal-defense-fund-for-the-tinley-park-five

Any financial help you can spare will be greatly appreciated and will go directly to the Tinley Park Five defense efforts.

To write the Tinley Park Five, address correspondence to:

Cook County Department of Corrections

Jason Sutherlin, 2012-0521141
Alex Stuck, 2012-0521142
Dylan Sutherlin, 2012-0521144
Cody Sutherlin, 2012-0521148
John Tucker, 2012-0521143

P.O. Box 089002
Chicago, IL 60608

The inmates are requesting reading materials of all sorts, but keep in mind, the more militant/radical the reading materials you send, the less likely they are to receive them.

The *Tinley Park Five* have specifically requested photocopies of news articles, photocopies of zines, books on any topics but especially social justice, history, and science-fiction/fantasy.

PART's Perspective:

CHICKENS COMING HOME TO ROOST

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-lA/PART)***

The excuse seized upon by reactionary elements within the Nation of Islam to suspend Malcolm X was his remark that the assassination of John F. Kennedy was a case of "chickens coming home to roost," referring to the CIA-orchestrated assassinations of Lumumba in the Congo, Diem in Vietnam, and others. Malcolm's insight was that the often-naked violence the US Empire visits on all the world's people, and the sometimes-hidden violence the rulers and their henchmen inflict on exploited, oppressed and colonized inside the borders of the U.S., has inevitable karmic consequences for the population and political system of the US itself. This has only become more undeniable with every passing year.

Not long after Malcolm's assassination, nor long before his own, Martin Luther King Jr. expressed the same understanding of the nature of this society in his declaration that the U.S. government was the greatest purveyor of violence on the planet. That insight as well has become increasingly irrefutable, as the margins of this "greatness" begin to reach logarithmic proportions. Open US military spending exceeds that of most of the rest of the planet. Add in the domestic military, the prisons and police, the private security apparatus of the corporate sector and the super-rich, and the megatonnage of US armament is virtually incalculable.

And yet the Colossus has feet of clay. Imperialism remains a paper tiger. Its greatest strength has always been the consent of its settler colonial population and its neo-colonial puppets, and this is continuing to evaporate. Thus the military under Bush and now Obama has turned to drones and robots to enforce its will, to panopticon surveillance of the restive population, and still finds itself besieged and bedeviled by resistance. Iraq and Afghanistan are unpacified, Libya destabilized, and that damn Occupy movement won't stay dead. The economy remains flat-lined, the Europeans can't be relied on to suppress their own people, and the BRICS –Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa -- won't accept the role of imperial subalterns. They actually seem intent on leapfrogging the US without firing a shot.

This increasingly maddening sense of frustration that percolates through the imperial rulers, the 1%, inevitably trickles down much faster than the wealth they are still soaking up from around the globe. The untrammeled impunity with which Barack Obama executes enemies of the state around the world, without so much as a by-your-leave, is reflected in the pandemic of police abuse on the streets of our inner cities, the quads of our college campuses, and in the decaying white-flight suburbs that are inevitably and increasingly darkening with the urban poor driven out of the cities by gentrification.

From the gentrified ArtWalk of downtown L.A. to the shadow of Disneyland in Anaheim, booted and suited cops in riot gear and helmets erupt with rubber bullets, pepper-spray, and bean-bag guns when faced with the fearsome threat of protest with chalk or placards. Police killings with impunity have become pandemic. Behind prison walls, the wretched of the earth have lost the fear of death, and are using their manifestation of a refusal to consent, by refusing to eat, to demand elemental human rights. The people's spirit remains greater than the man's technology. But the madness unleashed by the rulers continues spilling over, in organized and unorganized mayhem, whether by militias, vigilantes, or loose cannons often shepherded by agents provocateurs. The latest spasm of the death-culture, at the Dark Knight premier in Aurora CO left many unanswered questions about how the "lone gunman" got his guns, his ammo, his battle gear and his expertise with highly-sophisticated explosives. But whatever the specific details prove to be, there is no doubt where he got his inspiration – not just from the cornucopia of violent video games and feature films, but the reality that the Empire is one vast theater of war day in and day out. Imperialism, colonialism and capitalism are a non-stop, relentless state of war against the planet and the people. Since the ruling ideas of this age are the ideas of the rulers, it is no wonder that we are seeing more and more deranged racists and self-haters expressing their sense of the valuelessness of human life, right alongside the paid gendarmes that have been so carefully trained to do the same by the military and "law enforcement."

That is why our resistance must always be rooted in self-criticism, in a rejection of the values of patriarchy, privilege, possessiveness and white supremacy, if we are to have any hope of building a new world on the ashes of the old. Only by extricating ourselves from the grip of identification with the oppressor and the internalization of our own oppression can we begin to build authentically human and natural relationships of solidarity, mutual aid and respect, and a sustainable relationship with the rest of the natural world.

Turning the Tide is one small contribution to that process and to the capacity of the people to resist self-critically and in a sustained way. With our next issue, we will mark our 25th year of uninterrupted grassroots publication. We invite you to join us in commemorating that project and in raising funds to ensure its continued growth. For more information or to get involved, call 323-901-4269, email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com or write us at PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.

July 12 ChalkWalk:
LAPD Attacks Occupy LA, Downtown Residents

It's unfortunate that time and time again we have seen peaceful events grow to riots caused by an excessive show of force by the LAPD. For a bit of background- the chalk walk event was organized by a group of activists associated with Occupy Los Angeles to bring attention to the arrests that have been occurring at 626 Wilshire (the Central City East Association building). Those arrests have largely occurred due to activists chalking political messages outside of the building, to bring attention to various initiatives being pressed forward by the CCEA to essentially strip downtown clean of people they see as undesirable. Since NBC is uninterested in doing any research to coherently articulate what the organizers intention was and since even the Artwalk co-founder seems to be incapable of reading a press release or stay aware of what people in his community do; Let me state again. The purpose of Chalk Walk was to bring attention to the arrests that had been occurring at the CCEA, which functions as kind of Chamber of Commerce for downtown corporate gentrifiers.

The action was planned to take place between 5th and 6th on Spring Street and was intended to be a peaceful outreach event to encourage friendly dialogue. Many Artwalk regulars (parents and their children included) stopped by to draw with us.

Many interesting conversations sparked from discussing MacKinney vs. Nielsen, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that ruled that chalk could not be considered vandalism and was a constitutionally protected form of free speech under the first amendment. 8 arrests occurred between 7:30 and 8:45. All for.... you guessed it- chalking. Everything remained peaceful during the first 7 arrests as the chalkers remained calm as they were taken into custody.

The escalating incident happened during the 8th arrest. Apparently the LAPD wanted the chalk gone, the rain wasn't working fast enough for them, and formed a skirmish line in front of the chalkers. Occupiers formed a line and started chanting. A lot of the Artwalk patrons were confused as to why there were riot police when no riot was occurring. A female art patron -not associated with OLA- trying to de-escalate the situation, walked in the middle of the two lines and drew a smiling stick figure. She was then tackled to the ground by cops with such force that it caused her boyfriend to panic and lunge toward the police to protect her. He was shoved away by a couple of officers. The womyn was then grabbed, flipped over, dropped face down onto the street and pinned down by an officer's knee. Her boyfriend was visibly upset and had to be restrained by four of his friends. It was at this point that a multitude of Art walk patrons rushed into the street to protest her treatment. Tear gas was fired.

Skid Row Media: Chalk Walk report

As the crowd swelled, residents watching from their windows began to throw bottles at the police line. It was this excuse that LAPD took to begin firing rubber bullets into the crowd. Some artwalk bystanders were hit by the less- lethal ammunition* and suffered some pretty ugly injuries as a result.

One man was shot in his chest, had the wind knocked out of him and ended up collapsing right in front of the skirmish line.

BEFORE L.A.P.D.

AFTER L.A.P.D.

A few female protesters holding the front line rushed forward to help him and called for a medic. However we could not get to him before the police kicked the skateboard he was cradling into his face.

As we were all forced to take a step back we watched as he was trampled over, flipped onto his face, zipped tied and dragged onto the sidewalk.

It was at this point that some bar patrons came out and hurled a couple bottles at the police. Two female occupiers mic check and told the crowd, "Don't throw bottles! When you do that the cops don't care to aim at you. They just shoot in your general direction." "Keep your brothers and sisters safe, we are not prepared to deal with less-lethal ammunition."

At one point the police attempted a right flank to kettle protesters but everyone was able to get out of the designated area. We believe an additional three people were arrested as LAPD pushed the crowd north on Spring, none of which were associated with Occupy L.A. A couple hours and probably hundreds of thousands of city dollars spent on LAPD machismo later, the crowd naturally dispersed and continued along with their night.

So- now the real nitty gritty- Why did this happen? I'll keep this brief since this post is running a bit on the long side. This wasn't about chalk, this wasn't about 'people provoking the cops'- it was about finding any excuse to lock up individuals speaking out about what is going on in downtown.

The CCEA's Safer Cities Initiative is nothing more than a way to gentrify the area into a mono-socio/economic neighborhood that does not have to worry about "ethnic problems." Harassing the unhoused population of Skid Row and coercing them to leave is just the first step to expand CCEA's current 97 block territory to cover the whole of downtown. You don't believe the poor and unhoused get harassed without reason? Go to LACAN and talk to any of the individuals that work there and I guarantee you will have an entirely different perspective on what goes on in downtown. The Safer Cities Initiative also lays out a plan that CCEA plans to implement by 2020 that would in essence clear out all of the businesses from Santee Alley.

Skid Row is home mostly to African American residents and Santee Alley comprises mostly Mexicano/indigenous or Korean business owners. While this 2020 plan may not be intentionally racist, it certainly brings into question the morality of determining someone's future or making decisions about someone's livelihood in a way that will not benefit them in any way. As well as the morality of such decisions being made by people who only stand to benefit by other's misfortunate. In the end- this is all about economics and keeping money in the hands of the "right" people. CCEA is tied in with Villaraigosa, Jan Perry and the business interests pushing for the NFL Stadium downtown and the Chinatown Walmart.

*Note: less- lethal ammunition refers to rubber bullets, foam grenades, pepper spray rounds, tear gas, or any other ammunition the LAPD normally refers to as "non-lethal". While law enforcement claims that these are not intended to kill the people they are aimed at; there have been various documented incidents of people dying or receiving life threatening injuries as a result of "improper use" of said ammunition. Tear gas and other chemical weapons have also been documented to cause miscarriages. www.occupylosangeles.org https://www.facebook.com/groups/409943035709455/

People's History: Great Strike of 1877

Excerpted from United Electrical Workers News

135 years ago, American workers exploded with rage — and the rulers feared the fury of the "terror" from within. A headline in the Chicago Times in 1877 expressed the capitalists' anxious outrage: "Terrors Reign, The Streets of Chicago Given Over to Howling Mobs of Thieves and Cutthroats."

The U.S. was suffering through the 3rd year of a major economic depression. A strike by railroad workers sparked a coast-to-coast conflagration, as workers driven by despair and desperation battled troops in the streets of major U.S. cities. The ruling elite, badly shaken by the widespread protests, thought a revolution was underway. The New York Sun prescribed "a diet of lead for the hungry strikers."

If there ever was such a thing, this was no ordinary strike. It was an explosion of "firsts." The Great Railroad Strike of 1877 was the first major strike in an industry that propelled America's industrial revolution. It was the first national strike. In some cities, especially St. Louis, the struggle became one of the nation's first general strikes. This was the first major strike broken by the U.S. military. Probably in no other strike had so many working people met a violent death at the hands of the authorities.

The Great Strike was born of one of the periodic economic downturns that have caused misery for working people throughout U.S. history. A bank panic on Sept. 18, 1873 disintegrated into depression. "Weekly the layoffs, wage cuts, strikes, evictions, breadlines and hunger increased," wrote Richard Boyer and Herbert Morais in *Labor's Untold Story*. As the depression stretched into 1874, the unemployed demanded work and unions fought wage cuts. By 1877 there were as many as three million unemployed (roughly 27 percent of the working population). "Two-fifths of those employed were working no more than 6 to 7 months a. Wages had been cut by as much as 45 percent, often to little more than a dollar a day." Newspapers reported cases of starvation and suicide.

Political crisis mirrored the economic mess. Many believed the new president had reached the White House through fraud. Rutherford Hayes, a Republican, was not the man for whom a majority of voters had cast their ballots. Democrat Samuel Tilden won the popular vote but 20 disputed electoral votes from Florida threw the election into the House of Representatives. Thomas Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad reached a deal with Hayes: in exchange for a federal bailout of his troubled investment in the Texas and Pacific Railroad, the millionaire industrialist would deliver Congressional votes to Hayes. As a further inducement, the Republicans promised to end Reconstruction, a blatant betrayal of African Americans. Southern Congressmen deserted Tilden. Hayes withdrew federal troops from the South, ending Reconstruction and its promise of equality for former slaves.

The Pennsylvania Railroad had already slashed wages by 10% when it cut wages another 10% in June. The next month it announced that the size of eastbound trains would be doubled, without any increase in crews. Angry workers took control of switches and blocked the trains. On July 13, the Baltimore & Ohio cut the wages of all workers making more than a dollar a day. The company reduced the workweek to two or three days, a further pay cut. On July 16 firemen and brakemen refused to work. The company tried to bring on replacements but the strikers assembled at Camden Junction, three miles from Baltimore, would not let trains run in any direction. The word quickly spread to Martinsburg, WV, where workers abandoned their trains and prevented others from operating them. The company appealed to the governor, who called out the militia.

Militiamen and workers exchanged gunfire. The scabs ran off, the militia withdrew — and the strikers were left in control of their idled trains. Federal troops armed with Springfield rifles and Gatling guns arrived on July 19. The show of force got the trains running, releasing the 13 locomotives and 1,500 freight cars. But the strike was far from over. "Indeed, it was barely begun," reported Harper's Weekly. Believing that strikers in Cumberland were stopping eastbound trains, Maryland's governor ordered out the militia. Within a half-hour of the call, "at least 2,000 men, women, and children surrounded the armory and loudly expressed their feelings against the military and in favor of the strikers," according to Harper's Weekly. The police were powerless. Once the troops emerged for their march to Camden Station, they opened fire. The militia killed at least 10 and wounded others, including onlookers.

Sympathy for the strikers was even stronger in Pittsburgh. Here, said Boyer and Morais, the strike against the Pennsylvania Railroad "had the support even of businessmen, angry because of extortionate freight rates." The police and local militia sided with the strikers, so authorities had to appeal for troops from Philadelphia. When the militia arrived and marched out of the station, they were met with an angry crowd — and, according to Harper's, "a shower of stones." They emptied their rifles into the crowd, killing 20 men, women and children and wounding 29. A newspaper headline read: "Shot in Cold Blood. The Lexington of the Labor Conflict at Hand. The Slaughter of Innocents."

As the news reached nearby rolling mills and manufacturing shops, workers came rushing to the scene. Workers broke into a gun factory and seized rifles and small arms. By midnight, 20,000 surrounded the roundhouse, 5,000 of them armed. Workers and soldiers exchanged gunfire throughout the night. The workers nearly succeeded in burning out the troops by sending a blazing oil car hurtling against a nearby building. The next morning the troops evacuated the roundhouse and fought their way out of town. Pittsburgh policemen were among those reportedly taking aim at the strikebreakers. The crowd torched the railroad station, roundhouse, company offices and scores of railroad cars. The New York World told its readers that Pittsburgh was "in the hands of men dominated by the devilish spirit of Communism." On July 21, President Hayes issued a proclamation warning strikers and sympathizers to disperse within 24 hours. Clashes between troops and strikers in Reading added to the death toll among workers.

The strike reached Chicago, as workers on the Michigan Central followed the example of the men on the other lines. General Sheridan's cavalry, newly recalled from the South, attacked a group of workers there, killing many and wounding many more. The workers of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad joined the strike in St. Louis, where the Workingmen's Party coordinated a general strike. At one of its huge meetings, writes Marieke van Ophem, "a black man was the voice for those who worked on the steamboats and levees. He asked: 'Will you stand to us, regardless of color?' The crowd shouted in response: 'We will!'" Not only did the trains cease running, but breweries, mills, foundries and other shops shut as well. As a result of this working-class solidarity, bosses agreed to pay raises and shorter working hours without a reduction in wages. Then the military arrived — the U.S. Army and state militia, as well as armed vigilantes in the service of the bosses. Although there had been no violence, St. Louis came under martial law. Strike leaders were thrown in jail. Bosses canceled the wage increases and the eight-hour day. In the end, the government's ability to inflict violence on strikers and supporters got the trains rolling again. As one worker put it, "We were shot back to work." By early August the strike had collapsed everywhere.

Some 100,000 workers had gone on strike, and countless unemployed had joined the strikers to protest intolerable conditions. Farmers who hated the railroad companies fed the strikers. More than half the freight on the nation's 75,000 miles of track had stopped moving. More than 100 had died and 1,000 strikers had been jailed. The results of the Great Strike were mixed. Even as they agreed to some worker demands, bosses were determined to never

again allow workers the upper hand. "The railroads made some concessions, rescinded some wage cuts, but also strengthened their 'Coal and Iron Police,'" writes van Ophem. "In several large cities, National Guard armories were constructed, with loopholes for guns."

Working people learned that without strong unions and nationwide organization they could not defeat the alliance of capital and government. America's Industrial Revolution was underway, and with it, born in the blood of men and women who yearned for a better life, a modern labor movement.

More People's History:

Edith Garrud: "Suffragette" Taught Martial Arts, Advocated Women's Self-Defense Against Arrest

By Rachel Williams guardian.co.uk

The horrors of force-feeding endured by imprisoned women's-suffragists on hunger strike are well known; the image of rubber tubes rammed down women's throats as they were held or tied down is hard to shake. Less widely documented have been the efforts made to protect the movement's leaders from arrest in the first place. A 30-strong elite "bodyguard" was trained to resist the police using the martial art jiu-jitsu, by Edith Garrud. 100 years after her accomplishments, the Islington council unveiled a People's Plaque, voted for by residents, at the house where she lived in Thornhill Square, London.

One of the western world's first female martial arts instructors, Garrud, who died in 1971 aged 99, is thought to have learned jiu-jitsu in the late 19th century. She began working with the women's suffrage movement, eventually at her own women-only training hall, a room at the Palladium Academy dance school in Argyll Street. When the government passed the notorious "Cat and Mouse Act" in 1913 – under which hunger strikers were released only to be re-arrested when they had regained their strength – the Women's Social and Political Union responded by setting up a dedicated unit to protect Emmeline Pankhurst and other leaders from arrest.

Martial arts expert Tony Wolf, author of a book about Edith Garrud aimed at teenage girls, says there was a "direct progression" from this job to that of official trainer of the bodyguard. "Members [of the bodyguard] had to be athletic and willing to face injury and arrest. She trained them in jiu-jitsu at secret locations throughout London, and taught them how to use wooden Indian clubs, which were concealed in their dresses and used as weapons against the truncheons of the police."

Garrud was just 4 ft. 11 in. tall. In 1910 she produced an illustrated article explaining how woman using the jiu-jitsu methods had "brought great burly cowards nearly twice their size to their feet and made them howl for mercy. Woman is exposed to many perils nowadays, because so many who call themselves men are not worthy of that exalted title, and it is her duty to learn how to defend herself," she wrote. In the same year a Punch cartoon depicted policemen cowering before her. But Tony Wolf cautions against romanticized images of suffragettes throwing officers around. "The bodyguard had some remarkable tactical victories using decoys and disguises," he says. "But the grim reality is that they were heavily outnumbered by the police and were often injured."

Call for 3rd Annual
July 31st Day of Action Against Fascism and Racism

by the Anti-Racist Action Network

Join us on July 31, 2012 as we come together to deliver a message to fascists and racists in our neighborhoods and communities: ***Get out!***

For the past two years, antifascist and anti-racist organizers across the world have worked together to make July 31st a day to oppose white supremacy. This annual event was started in 2010 as a response to white supremacist attacks against anti-racists and antifascists, attacks that were meant to stop us from organizing.

Fascists and racists should not have a chance to let their ideas take root in our communities. History has shown that ignoring racist groups when they hold marches and demonstrations does not make them go away. Organized racists and fascists -- whether neo-Nazi, Klan, white power skinhead crew, or the Minutemen -- leave intimidation and violence in their wake wherever they settle.

We don't believe in waiting for the police to handle the fascists and racists, either. We've had our fair share of encounters with the police, and we know their job is to "serve" us with harassment, beatings and arrests. We've seen how the police stand around and protect the fascists whenever they hold a rally or a march, but are quick to crack skulls at an anti-war march or an Occupy protest. We've also seen how the police routinely criminalize, harass, arrest, and attack people of color and queer people. We know that institutions like the police and prisons can never be "fixed" or "reformed" if their function is to maintain a racist and homophobic power structure.

We encourage participants to support the July 31st Day of Action in whatever ways make the most sense locally. Want to plan a punk or hip-hop show to raise funds for antifa? Do it. Want to flyer your neighborhood about a local neo-Nazi? Go for it! Want to organize an anti-police brutality march or a prison abolition teach-in? Yes, please!

If you are having a hard time finding inspiration for a solidarity action, we wish to remind folks that over the past few months two great intelligence releases have transpired; The first was the hack on American Third Position (A3P). Their web-site was defaced and then destroyed; antifascists hackers then released loads of juicy private conversations as well as hundreds of members and supporters names and addresses.

http://www.zone-h.org/mirror/id/16824727

The next is the National Socialist Movement (NSM). The ex-wife of the NSM leader, Jeff Schoep, handed over a notebook of his filled with the full NSM membership roster , including names and addresses and some social security numbers, of every member dating back from 2004 up to December of 2011. See the full story here: http://www.onepeoplesproject.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=959:whos-who-in-the-natl-socialist-movement-membership-list-leake&catid=29:antifa-news&Itemid=14

Both of these organizations would make for great targets for the J31 day of action. In fact, we hope that they are the major focus of this Day of Action.

Although we recognize the limitations of single "days of action", we hope July 31st will serve as a catalyst for long lasting, pro-active antifascist affinity groups or organizations. We believe that we need a dedicated and large force of militant antifascists with great intelligence, analysis, and dedication to crushing emerging extreme Right and fascist movements.

If your organization or crew is interested in endorsing the July 31st Day of Action, please contact us at July31DOA@yahoo.com

For more information, check the network website at www.antiracistaction.org

Fight Fascism, Smash Racism

Anti-Racist Action Network's
18th Annual Conference Returns to Columbus OH

Arch City ARA is pleased to announce that we will be holding the Anti-Racist Action Network's 18th annual conference this year in our hometown of Columbus, OH during October 12th-15th, 2012.

This year's conference is especially important to us because it marks a return to the city where the first official ARA conference took place in 1994, as well as falling on the weekend of the 7th anniversary of the Toledo Riots, a historic victory for antifascists against the National Socialist Movement on October 15, 2005

The conference will include ARA's annual plenary, caucuses, and discussion on current issues facing antifascists. All said events will be held privately. Any non-network-vouched chapters or individuals who agree with the points of unity and want to be involved please contact Arch City ahead of time at archcity@antiracistaction.org to fill out registrations and get vouched in.

Arch City ARA
archcityara.blogspot.com
archcity@antiracistaction.org

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK POINTS OF UNITY

1. **We go where they go:** Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!
2. **We don't rely on the cops or courts to do our work for us:** This doesn't mean we never go to court, but the cops uphold white supremacy and the status quo, They attack us and everyone that resists oppression. We must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.
3. **Non-sectarian defense of other anti-fascists.** In ARA, we have a lot of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.
4. **We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom.** ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest, and the most oppressed people. We want a classless, free society. **We intend to win!**

Building a Powerful Country-wide Grass-roots Movement to Save the People's Post Office

By Dave Welsh, www.SaveThePostOffice.com

Without question, the big-business class – and their agents in USPS headquarters, the executive branch and Congress – are on a path to dismantle the Postal Service, privatize the profitable parts of it, and neutralize or destroy the postal unions.

Their whole economic system is in crisis. It's not working. So the 1% are trying to pull their own chestnuts out of the fire by a full-bore attack on unions, the workers and the poor – an attack on our union contracts, our jobs, economic security, wages, benefits, conditions, and social services. Their assault on the Post Office is part of this strategy.

How can we fight it? By itself, the legislative strategy – trying to influence Congress – is not working. Congress is bought and sold by the 1% – they won't begin to listen to us until we're in the streets, mobilized in all our numbers.

The rank and file postal workers, and our communities, who support us – this is the source of our real strength. We need to reach out and tap into it, just as we did in the Great 1970 Postal Strike. That grassroots upsurge brought about a big change in the relationship of forces between postal workers and the bosses. What used to be work for poverty wages became a living-wage job, with a union contract to protect the workers' rights. Any postal worker can see this.

A statement by the Million Worker March movement helps to clarify the situation we face today: "All important social movements …in this country were started from the bottom up (rank and file/grass roots) and not from the top down….A handful of the rich, and powerful corporations have usurped our government. A corporate and banking oligarchy changes hats and occupies public office to wage class war on working people. They have captured the State in their own interests." (Oct. 17, 2011)

When Reagan took office as President, one of his first acts was to bust the PATCO air traffic controllers union, ushering in three decades of attacks on the union movement and steady decline in the living standards of the working class.

Today, the 1% have a much bigger target – the Postal Service. They hate the fact that the 574,000 who work for the nation's second biggest employer are under union contract and making a living wage.

They hate the fact that in 1970 the postal workers took their destiny into their own hands and shut down the entire mail system for the better part of a week, demonstrating the power of the workers and disrupting business as usual. And the 1970 nationwide postal strike taught another lesson: that the wealth of the 1% only exists because the 99% creates it for them.

The nation's largest employer is Walmart. The employer class would dearly love to reduce those 574,000 postal workers to Walmart wages and non-union status. But just because they want it, doesn't mean they'll get it.

The Racist Side of the Campaign to Demolish the P.O. and Bust the Unions

There's another side to the move to dismantle and destroy the public Postal Service, this country's largest unionized employer. And that is the disproportionate effect it would have on workers and communities of color.

If you've ever seen a group picture of postal workers from before World War II, you noticed that it was a practically all-white group, and mostly men. But in the 50s, things began to change, with the development of the civil rights and Black Liberation movements. The P.O. began hiring Asian Americans, Latinos, Mexican Americans, African Americans, and a lot more women. So that by the time of the 1970 Strike, it was a much more integrated and diverse work force.

Today the Postal Service is the largest single source of Black employment, and for many workers, one of the few places where living-wage jobs are still available in our low-pay, "post-industrial" economy.

The campaign to privatize and de-unionize the USPS is a threat to the livelihood of every affected worker and neighborhood. But it stands to hit hardest in those communities of color that are already suffering unemployment at Great Depression levels.

Building Community/Labor Coalitions in every city and town

We can and must build a powerful, nationwide movement to defeat privatization, maintain living-wage postal jobs, expand postal services, and save the Post Office as a public entity operating in the public interest.

This grass-roots effort has already begun. Community-based coalitions are springing up, with some creative tactics. Here's a sampling:

In New York City, Community-Labor United for Postal Jobs & Services organized large neighborhood protests to stop the closing of postal facilities in Harlem, South Bronx, Staten Island, Chelsea, and Coop City – as well as keep 6-day delivery and preserve living-wage postal jobs. The youth group of Al Sharpton's National Action Network participated in a "Don't Close It" march and occupation of a Harlem station. The coalition also organized a march of 500 to the Main Post Office on the anniversary of the 1970 postal strike. http://clupjs.com

SavethePostOffice@sonic.net www.cpwunited.com

There is no single institution on earth that undermines the well-being of the world more than the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in northern New Mexico.

Stopping Los Alamos National Lab & Nuclear War

by (Un) Occupy Albuquerque

As a tool of the U.S. empire, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) developed the only nuclear bombs to be used as weapons of war—in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and three days later in Nagasaki. At least 225,000 people died as a result, hundreds of thousands died later of cancers, and thousands more inherited birth defects from their irradiated parents and grandparents.

Today, the U.S. nuclear stockpile contains enough warheads to destroy 159,000 Hiroshimas. With threats of a U.S. strike against Iran and with Israel's U.S.-backed hegemony in the Middle East, it is time to shut down the war machine.

Toxic earth

It is not possible to develop and maintain nuclear weaponry without displacing indigenous people and destroying the air, water, earth and all living things that live on it. LANL is built on and is contaminating indigenous land "borrowed" by the U.S. government and never returned.

Since 1945, the United States has exploded over 1100 nuclear weapons in tests on land, underground, and in the ocean, exposing millions of unsuspecting humans and animals to radiation.

Corporate greed

Los Alamos is NOT operated by the U.S. government. In an egregious breach of world security, the U.S. nuclear weapons industry was sold to the highest bidder in 2007. The lab is now controlled by Bechtel Corporation, the notorious engineering firm that built about half of the nucelaer plants in the world as well as the oil infrastructure of Saudi Arabia. Bechtel was awarded more than $55 million in pure profit for its LANL operations last year.

Join us in Los Alamos, NM on August 6, 2012
to put the empire on notice:

No more corporate greed!
No more pollution.
No more war.
!ya basta! LANL

White Privilege and Mass Murders in America

Posted on July 21, 2012 by Three Sonorans http://threesonorans.com/2012/07/21/white-privilege-in-american-mass-shootings/

There he goes again, that darn Three Sonorans playing the race card again…

I made a comment on Facebook yesterday:

Trying to shoot down MAS classes and not looking in the mirror to see what in American culture causes mass shootings…

and immediately was met with complaints that the Colorado shooting has nothing to do with race or MAS (Mexican American Studies).

My point was that we focus so much on the danger of Chicanos learning their history when the real threat comes from crazy Americans with very easy access to guns, but that is besides the point for now.

Does the Colorado ***Dark Knight*** shooting have anything to do with race? For those who know about Critical Race Theory and view events and issues through that special lens, the answer is interesting either way. If it does have to do with race, then that discussion can continue.

But I want to consider the opposite; what if the shooting has nothing to do with race? This is actually where things get interesting.

Remember when that airplane crashed into that building in an attempt to kill federal employees a few years ago? A man was mad at the IRS and drove his plane into a building in Austin, Texas in 2010. The man was white.

You might say, why does his race matter? Because when a criminal is not white, it matters to everyone. If the man was brown-skinned we would wonder if he was sent from the Mexican drug cartels, or if he was part of some Muslim terrorist group, or if he had ties to the Black Panthers… His race would concern everyone.

Here is an experiment. Close your eyes now and try to envision the white man that crashed his plane into the Austin building? Do you have his face memorized? What does he look like? Now think of "shoe-bomber." His face was everywhere on TV.

Do you remember these pictures? Richard Reid killed no one, the only damage he caused was to his shoes, but we all know his face and we know he is a "terrorist."

Do you recognize the man with the guitar in the picture above? Joseph Stack was the man who crashed a plane into a building. News reports make sure to point out that he acted alone and is not a "terrorist."

The FBI identified the pliot as Joseph Stack, a 53-year-old software engineer. Stack was confirmed dead, but his body has not yet been recovered. At least one person who worked in the building was unaccounted for and two people were hospitalized, thirteen others were treated and released said Austin Fire Department Division Chief Dawn Clopton. Emergency crews found two bodies in the building late Thursday evening, but wouldn't identify them.

Texas Republican Congressman Michael McCaul told reported the incident was, "not tied to overseas terror organizations."

A U.S. law official said investigators were looking at a lengthy, anti-government "manifesto" Stack is believed to have written on his Web site. The message outlines problems with the IRS and says violence "is the only answer."

Read more: http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,586581,00.html

Isn't a terrorist someone who uses terror, as in fear, usually against civilians? Note there is no mention of race in these definitions. When GOP Congressman McCaul says above that Stack was "not tied to overseas terror organizations" what exactly does this mean, why is it even being said, especially when you consider Stack's manifesto that says "violence is the only answer"?

According to the definition above, Stack's use of violence to achieve a political aim, the aim here being the offices of the IRS in Austin, satisfies the requirements to be a terrorist.

But note the use of the word "overseas." Overseas as in foreigners. But nowhere is it mentioned by the Congressman that this is clearly an act of domestic terrorism, by American citizens.

Now when it comes to events such as Columbine and the Aurora incident, since they were mass murders we know the people involved, and just as with the Tucson Tragedy, the face of the young white man is displayed on the TV 24-7 right now. How ironic that the media always uses smiling photos of these murderers, as they did with Jared Loughner. The similarities are there. Both were students that were failing out of school and clearly worried about it.

Were they racists? Who knows; maybe they were or maybe they weren't. But that's not the question right now. Neither is the question why these two white men hate America. Why do they hate us? Why are they jealous of Americans?

Despite these heinous acts, other young white men are not afraid of being racially profiled now. Will people now fear white men when they get onto airplanes wearing a college T-shirt? What if they smile at them? Then they definitely fit the profile of a domestic terrorist!

Race does not matter in this case, nor should it. The cops would waste their time and energy by racially profiling all young men in suburbia. It is best to keep race out of this.

This efficiency is called White Privilege.

You already know that if it was a Muslim that did the crime, the news would be speaking right now about the threat of "Muslim" terrorism. This Batman shooting will never be referred to as "White" terrorism or "American" terrorism. Everyone knows that American and terrorism are exact opposites! Americans are the ones that fight terrorism, not engage in it. We never use violence against other people around the world, they have no need to fear us.

We just know that they are jealous of us because we are so rich. Not because of lives lost in their families or communities destroyed.

I digress.

What if the shooter was not white? The Virginia Tech shooter was not white, and we all know thanks to the news that he was an immigrant from South Korea. They chose only the best pictures with a smiling face to let Americans know what that killer looked like. Now just imagine if the mass shooter was a former Mexican American Studies student! You know that news would be all over that!

Joseph Stack had an anti-government manifesto… yawn…

White Christian militias in places like Michigan or cults like the Branch Davidians… these are brave patriots and their stockpiling of weaponry is an homage to the greatness of the Second Amendment. Until they go and kill people or spread their own domestic terrorism. But we never wonder why they hate America.

We just sit and wonder… why? Why did this happen? Surely it has nothing to do with our culture even though it is Americanism that keeps spawning these people out, and that gives them the guns to act through on their fears.

This is not a time to declare war on their kind, because they are us. They come from within.

It is also not a time to declare war on another country, or have all college students strip during airport searches. No profiling of any kind will take place. Nor should it.

That's the benefit of White Privilege.And that is something many of us, including myself, do not have. Until the day I die I will always be "reasonably suspicious," a possible drug-cartel member or illegal immigrant. I will never be waved through border patrol checkpoints which not dot Southern Arizona like those in the car in front of me. Even the books I read and music I listen to or art I enjoy will be used against me in a court of law, as it was in the Ethnic Studies trial in Arizona.

And despite the race of the mass shooters, from Jared Loughner to James Holmes, or to other murderers outside of Tucson such as Shawna Forde and Jason Bush, white supremacist members of the Minutemen that killed Brisenia Flores and her father while also shooting her mother, the Sheriff Arpaio lovers and Tea Party will never start fearing their grandkids even though Russell Pearce and Jan Brewer have sons in jail. Or the person that Pearce baptized, his good friend JT Ready, who was involved in a recent mass murder in Arizona…

It is the brown person that must be feared. It is Latinos getting educated in Mexican American Studies that plan to "overthrow the US Government." And it is we who are the cause of the financial meltdown. It has nothing to do with the billionaire bankers and their bailouts, but mythical welfare collectors who we all pictured as Black and Latino.

Just as with other mass murders, the media will focus on this for another 15 minutes and then it will be forgotten. Then another murderer will be spawned, and we will wonder once again why it happened.

Perhaps if Americans started looking within, and at all cultures and races, rather than focusing as Arizona does on the evilness of Ethnic Studies and bilingual education, or whether people living here peacefully for decades have the proper paperwork, then we might prevent future tragedies.

But this would require us to look beyond the illusion, the American flag or the crucifix in the house and focus more on what type of weapons your neighbor has and why. Their internet ramblings and conspiracy sites they visit may be more dangerous than a banned book by Rudy Acuña read in TUSD. This will never happen.

In the meantime whenever white men commit mass murders it is just a freak isolated incident, but when we look at other crime statistics for minorities the reason given is that it is something innate to their culture, to their family. It is those people.

And while Arizona and others continue to focus on minorities and immigrants, the next shooter will go unnoticed, and then we will repeat this cycle once again.

UN Special Rapporteur probes solitary confinement of Russell Maroon Shoatz

by Theresa Shoatz freemaroon@gmail.com 267-456-7882

July 19, 2012: Philadelphia, PA - Leading human rights organizations and the family of Russell Maroon Shoats received word last month that the United Nations' leading expert on torture, Juan Mendez, will submit an inquiry into Shoats' ongoing solitary confinement at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) Greene in western Pennsylvania. Mendez, who is the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, sent a letter to a U.S. State Department representative in Geneva, Switzerland at the end of last month regarding the case of Shoats, a 68-year-old Pennsylvania state prisoner who has been held in solitary confinement for 21 consecutive years.

The Special Rapporteur's inquiry was prompted by a complaint submitted by Shoats' children on behalf of the International Campaign to Free Russell Maroon Shoats (the Campaign) along with the Center for Constitutional Rights, National Lawyers Guild, and the Human Rights Coalition-Fed Up! Chapter. The complaint requested that the Special Rapporteur "immediately initiate a prompt and comprehensive investigation into the facts surrounding Shoats' two decade stay in the solitary units administered by the the PA Department of Corrections.

Other co-signers to the complaint were represented the War Resisters League, the International Peace Research Association, National Jericho Movement, Malcolm X Commemoration Committee, Big Red Media, and Scientific Soul Sessions.

News of the Special Rapporteur's interest in this case came less than two weeks after a U.S. Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on solitary confinement in U.S. prisons prompted a wave of editorials denouncing the pervasive use of solitary confinement as torture. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette declared that it is "time to view solitary confinement as torture, comparing the practice of locking a person in a tiny cell for 23 hours per day for years on end to "a debased practice of totalitarian regimes," acknowledging that "criminals themselves are being held by criminal means."

PA State Representative Ron Waters has recently announced that PA state legislators will hold a similar hearing on solitary confinement on September 18. This is particularly noteworthy since the modern practice of solitary confinement originated in PA in the early 19th century.
The Campaign holds the position that Shoats is being tortured, and further that this torture is being applied as persecution for his history as a political dissident and human rights defender inside and outside prison. "This conscience-shocking maltreatment constitutes an urgent human rights crisis," said Bret Grote of HRC-Fed Up!. "It is emblematic of the lawlessness that exists inside Pennsylvania and United States prisons." The international campaign to free Shoats from solitary confinement was formally launched in May. In late June campaign representatives met with PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel to discuss Shoats' case. The Secretary, who has repeatedly touted himself as a reformer in the press, stated that he would review the matter.

In 2011, the Special Rapporteur submitted a report on solitary confinement to the UN General Assembly that found that "any imposition of solitary confinement beyond 15 days constitutes torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment," and called on the international community to adopt such a standard and impose "an absolute prohibition on solitary confinement exceeding 15 consecutive days." In contrast to these recommendations, the state of Pennsylvania holds approximately 2,500 persons in solitary on any given day, countless hundreds for years at a time. A typical minimum sentence to solitary in the PA DOC consists of twice the UN Rapporteur's threshold of fifteen days.

"We will continue to push for this urgent human rights crisis into the public spotlight," said Theresa Shoatz. "As family members of a survivor of this torture, we know that its time for this hateful practice to end."

Supporters are being asked to contact SCI Greene's warden, Louis Folino, and PA DOC Secretary Wetzel and request that Russell Shoats be placed in general population. They are also asking that people sign an online petition in support of the campaign: **http://www.change.org/petitions**/pa-doc-secretary-john-wetzel-sci-greene-superintendent-louis-folino-release-russell-maroon-shoats-from-solitary-confinement

FREE RUSSELL MAROON SHOATZ - FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel
1920 Technology Parkway
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
PHONE: 717-728-4109

Superintendent Louis Folin, SCI Greene
169 Progress Drive
Waynesburg, PA 15370
PHONE: 724-852-2902

Write Maroon: Russell Shoats #AF-3855, SCI Greene, 175 Progress Dr. Waynesburg PA 15370

Court Confirms Ten-Year Sentence for Lynne Stewart

By Jeff Mackler, Justice for Lynne Stewart

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit confirmed the 2010 decision of Federal District Court Judge John Koeltl to change his 28-month jail sentence for radical attorney and human rights activist, Lynne Stewart, to ten years.

Following federal prosecutors' appeal of what it considered a "lenient sentence," the Second Circuit all but ordered a compliant Koeltl to re-sentence Stewart, and harshly. Koeltl did just that, forcing Stewart to appeal to the very court that originally pressured Koeltl, in what was widely considered a "career decision" to do Stewart great harm.

Stewart was convicted at an outrageous 2005 New York frame-up trial on five counts of conspiracy to aid and abet and provide material support to terrorism. Her crime? Representing the "blind Sheik," the Egyptian cleric, Omar Abdel Rachman, who had also been convicted on triumphed-up conspiracy charges. Stewart issued a press release from her client stating his views on how Egyptian Muslim oppositionists should react to the ongoing crimes and murders of Egypt's then-President Hosni Mubarak.

Stewart was convicted of violating a vaguely-worded court-ordered SAM (Special Administrative Measure) that barred her from revealing her client's opinions. The penalty for such violations had traditionally been a mild slap on the wrist, perhaps a warning to not repeat the "violation" and to bar attorney-client visits for a few months. Barring an unlikely Supreme Court reversal, she will now serve her ten-year sentence with perhaps a one-year or ten percent reduction for "good behavior." She is presently incarcerated at FMC Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Free Lynne Stewart" must remain the rallying cry of all those who cherish civil liberties and democratic rights. Stewart, like so many others, but perhaps among the first tier, was a victim of the government-promoted malicious and murderous "war on terror" aimed at stifling all dissent and imprisoning the innocent to justify its wars against working people at home and against the oppressed and exploited across the globe.

Jeff Mackler is the West Coast Coordinator of the Lynne Stewart Defense Committee
See **http://lynnestewart.org/** for more information, statement from Lynne Stewart, and how to donate to help.

The Revolution Betrayed: Egypt

[column written 6/15/12] © 2012 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

When Egyptians massed in Tahrir Square a year and ½ ago, denouncing the corrupt, Western-backed regime of Husni Mubarak, the West was faced with a quandary: How to retain Mubarakism without Mubarak?

After many months of parliamentary wrangling and electoral hijinks, the answer is now becoming clear. The military, with the backing of the courts, have essentially annulled parliament, and by so doing, restored the status quo ante – the rule of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) --

And like that –'presto change-o' – Mubarakism without Mubarak.

Husni Mubarak was the chief servant of Western interests, and used his power to repress Egypt's dissidents and opponents of his regime. The Tahrir Square rebellions made his continued rule untenable.

But, if anything, he was the figurehead, fronting for the military-police-judicial-corporate complex. And, as such, he was dispensable.

So, the early June hearings that sentenced the aging ex ruler to life imprisonment, that cleared his sons, and cleared many of his regime's police and military for their immense brutality and violence against the people, cleared the way for this judicial coup of the popularly-elected parliament.

The judicial class in every society is always the most conservative, for their job is to preserve the status quo with the illusion of legality. Notice that this court, which has essentially banished parliament for violating election laws, never batted a judicial eyelash when Mubarek and his so-called Democratic Party stole elections with impunity – for decades. Is it mere coincidence that they also supported the candidacy of Ahmed Shafik – a Mubarak henchman?

The Mubarak years may've been years of monstrous brutality, torture and venality (with Western support, of course), but an entire infrastructure of repression benefited from the billions sent in from Washington and Bonn.

That privileged layer of Egyptian society wanted their position back, hence, the counter-revolution, with the blessings of the Mubarak-appointed courts.

Now, the real revolution begins – or its complete betrayal.

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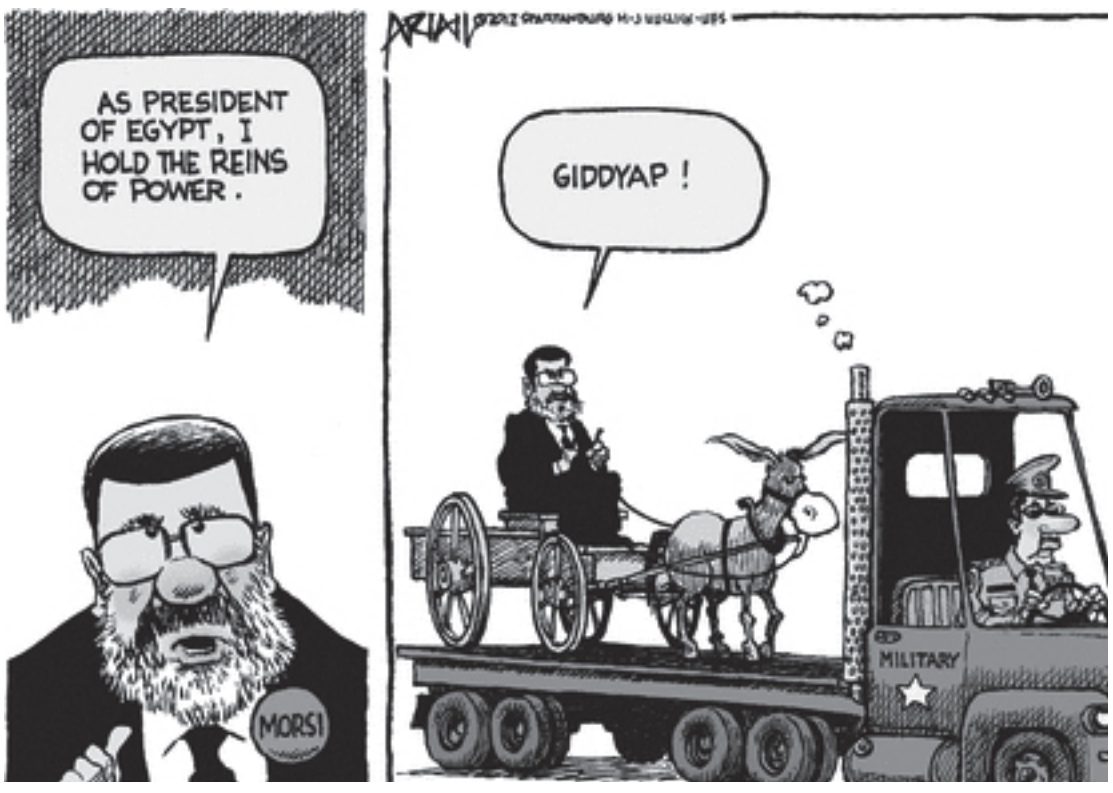

About a new pamphlet:

On The Need to Abolish the Prison System: An ethical indictment

By Steve Martinot ***martinot4@gmail.com***

This essay is an extended argument for the abolition of prisons. Its argument is made on ethical and political rather than sociological grounds. That is, it addresses the logic of prisons themselves as criminal, and thus a source of social violence, instead of simply demonstrating that prisons fail in their allegedly intended purpose. The institution of prisons, and the judicial machine that runs them, is inseparable from a criminality inherent in the structures of economic exploitation, the structures of racialization, an underlying commodification of personhood in the US, wars of aggression, and a general culture of contempt. The essay begins by establishing that imprisonment is an act of violence, and therefore a criminal act. If you are interested in reading this essay, please just respond to this announcement, and I will send it to you by attachment. I have also published it in pamphlet form. The pamphlet is plain in format, half-page in size, and 96 pages. It sells for $3. If you order more than 5, the price drops to $2 apiece. For instance, $10 will get you five copies. My address is: Steve Martinot, PO Box 11842, Berkeley, CA 94712 or by email: ***martinot4@gmail.com***

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ANTI-RACIST ACTIONS

Oct. 1 Occupy LA 1-year Rededication to Liberation

Pershing Square, Sixth & Olive, 12 Noon; Rally, March, G.A. at 6:00 PM

Oct. 6 Anti-War Protest on Afghanistan Anniversary

Hollywood & Highland, 12 Noon; Pershing Square, 2:00 PM

Oct. 12-15 ARA Network Gathering, Columbus OH

International antifascist network gathering, registration info inside

Oct. 13 Welcome Home L.A. at Chuco's Justice Center

Social Reintegration Resources for Formerly Incarcerated People
3-5:00 PM, 1137 E. Redondo, Inglewood (near Florence & Crenshaw)

Oct. 20 O.L.A. Themed G.A. on Police & Prisons

12 Noon Pershing Square: Speak-Out and Discussion on the Criminal Injustice System

Jericho Amnesty Movement to free all political prisoners

5 pm So. Cal. Library, 6120 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles CA

Oct. 22 National Day of Action Against Police Abuse

Oct. 31 Halloween Witches' March vs. Patriarchy

All night at the Hollywood Halloween Parade

November 2012 - 25th anniversary of ARA-LA/PART and 25th year of publication of Turning the Tide!

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TURNING THE TIDE

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Grassroots Community Radio Coalition

End the Police State & Incarceration Nation!

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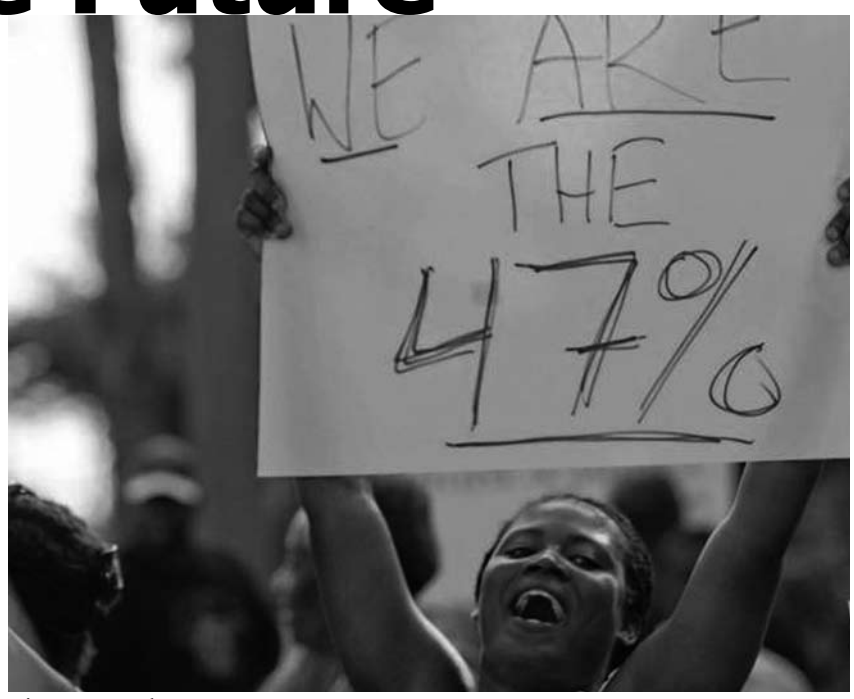
PART's Perspective:

Occupy: The Future

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***



A key part of the corporate media's approach to sucking people into the swamp of the electoral charade, so as to regain the compliance, if not the consent, of the US populace, has been to write the premature obituary of the Occupy Wall Street movement. But as Mark Twain once said, "Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

Not only is Occupy alive and kicking and sinking roots, it is more necessary today than it was when it launched a year ago. Occupy has had some undeniable successes, most notably in thrusting the issue of economic inequality and the parasitic nature of the ruling 1% into the public discourse. But by almost every measure, the oppressive and exploitative social, economic and political conditions that gave birth to it are worse today than a year ago.

46.2 million people now live below the poverty line, the highest level in almost two decades, and more than on October 1, 2011. The share of Americans without health coverage fell slightly from 16.3 percent to 15.7%, but that's still 48.6 million people. Just like in the former Soviet Union after privatization, life expectancy for poor people with less than a high school education has been falling in the U.S. Life expectancy for white women without a h.s. diploma dropped 5 years by 2008, the most recent figures in a current study.

There's no question that the ongoing economic crisis and growing inequality have lowered life expectancy still further. US women have dropped from 14th to 41st place internationally in expected life-span .

Median real household income fell 1.7% and income inequality rose in 2011. The Gini index, a measure of inequality, rose 1.6 percent from 2010 to 2011, the first time the Gini index has shown an annual increase since 1993. Real income of the highest 20% rose 1.6 percent, and the top 5 percent of earners saw their incomes increase 4.9 percent. At the same time, the middle-income "quintiles" fell between 1 percent and 1.9 percent each. This year, the incomes of the poorest have dropped significantly again, a loss of almost 20% cumulatively since the start of the Great Recession in 2007, down from a little under $15,000 a year to less than $12,000 per capita.

Global average sea level rose at an average rate of around 1.7 ± 0.3 mm per year from 1950 to 2009 and at a satellite-measured average rate of about 3.3 ± 0.4 mm per year from 1993 to 2009. Overall, land and sea temperatures were fairly level for the year (the 4th hottest on record), but that's because of La Nina effects on the ocean. Land temperatures, particularly in North America, climbed dramatically. Arctic sea ice was reduced to a record low, and drought and record high temperatures have been unrelenting. Corn crops in the US have been decimated.

A new CSU tuition hike would require students to pay $58 million more next year. Total student debt in the U.S. now exceeds $1 trillion, and is climbing (see the Student Debt Clock for updating figures:
http://www.finaid.org/loans/studentloandebtclock.phtml

A flood of foreclosures in states that make it a judicial process swelled in the aftermath of the $25 billion foreclosure abuse settlement, signed off on in April by the Justice Dept. and state Attorneys General. It gave lenders a slap on the wrist by paying off cash-strapped state governments and a green light when pursuing foreclosures, allowing many banks to push more cases though the pipeline. Illinois, where foreclosures were up 42% year over year, and Florida, where there was a 16% annual increase in August, now claim the two highest foreclosure rates. They dethroned Arizona and California because their foreclosures shot up, not because AZ and CA have dropped much. In Illinois, one in every 298 properties has been hit with a foreclosure filing.

There are now about 24 vacant homes in the U.S. for every one of the estimated three-quarters of a million unhoused people. Of course, this doesn't count the largest and fastest-growing public housing system in the country -- prisons and jails. Over 2,300,000 people are incarcerated on any given day in the U.S. with an additional 5 million plus under some form of custodial supervision such as probation or parole.

Federal immigration authorities deported a record number of undocumented immigrants in fiscal year 2011, nearly 392,000 people. Another 429,000 people were detained by I.C.E., also an all-time high (not counted as incarcerated). The annual number of deportations doubled from the start of Bush's first term to the end of Obama's. The federal government is on track in 2012 to deport more parents of legal U.S. citizen children than were deported in the prior 10 years combined! Obama's executive action for the "Dreamers," youth brought to the US and raised here without papers, is really a "Delayed Departure" program, meaning people who come forward to participate are just dropped to a lower priority for deportation. Many have been separated from their parents, and all have been denied access to medical care.

More than 300 people have been killed by police in the U.S. in the first 9 months of the year. Annually, police report more than 400 "justifiable homicides" by law enforcement. As reported in the last issue of ***Turning the Tide*** in a study by the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, looking at Black people alone, every 36 hours one is the target of an "extra-judicial" killing by law enforcement, private security, vigilantes or organized racists. In addition, internalized racism results in Blacks killing Blacks, Raza killing Raza, and Black-Brown inter-communal violence. **A Black male youth in Harlem, NY who reaches the age of 15 has only a 37% chance of surviving to the age of 65.** Excess mortality rates for Black people compared to whites exceeds a factor of 4 in many poor communities. Yet benefits under Social Security have been reduced until age 67, so many Black males never receive benefits.

Political repression has worsened dramatically in the year since Occupy Wall Street and Occupy L.A. were launched. In addition to the massive coordinated police attacks on free-speech encampments, we saw the passage of the NDAA authorizing indefinite military detention without trial of even US citizens by the Pentagon. Obama claimed the authority to carry out killings of "targets," including US citizens. The FBI continued a policy of entrapment of dissident Muslim youth. Grand jury witch-hunts and FBI fishing expeditions were directed against anti-war and solidarity activists, Occupiers, and earth and animal rights proponents in Chicago, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and the Pacific northwest.

Women's reproductive health measures have been criminalized, and women subjected to intrusive examinations and restrictive requirements in seeking health care. Patriarchal attacks on women's rights and bodies have become a norm of legislative politics.

War has spread from Afghanistan to Pakistan, from Iraq to Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia and maybe Iran. Yet the anti-war movement has been lulled into quiet grumbling as the US exports war and war-making technology to oppressive client regimes around the world, perverting the Arab Spring into new colonial intervention.

Can we vote to change this? The electoral political system in the U.S. is totally dominated by corporate financing. Worse, it is inherently undemocratic because of Constitutional compromises dating back to slavery and the Founding Fathers' fear of "faction" (unruly working classes and indigenous people fighting for their rights). **The US electoral system is not only incapable of solving these problems, it is part of the problem.** Elections in the US are not designed to give "the people" an opportunity make policy; they are designed as a massive spectacle to alienate people from our own power to make change, and to obtain our grudging consent for the rulers' system and front-men. As on Death Row in UT, we're given the choice of lethal injection or the firing squad.

All the social tinder that sparked Occupy is still around. Alienation from and mistrust of the corporate electoral process and both candidates of the duopoly is evident in every public opinion poll. The plurality of people who bother to register are "independents." Only 5% of Republican voters, and 30% of Democratic voters, have "faith" that the government will do the right thing, whatever that is. So why does the resistance movement, at least in terms of massive participation, seem to have gone to a simmer from a boil? There are two answers to that question, and one has the potential to solve the problem posed by the other.

First, like every social movement for transformation in US history, Occupy has suffered from internal weaknesses and external attacks that have held it back. More specifically, **as Occupy has been radicalized by its experiences, it has been marginalized and criminalized.** Simultaneously it has experienced in-fighting and splits over how to move forward, as well as abandonment by fair-weather friends who thought the path would be easier, or who were looking for only limited concessions and clean-up by the system. Some early organizers, unable or unwilling to engage in self-critical reflection or to challenge their own privilege and identification with the system of the 1%, have dropped away. Others, disappointed that Occupy refused to follow the trajectory of the Tea Party and align itself with the Democrats as the Tea Party adhered to the Republicans, have pulled out resources. They are looking for "activists" willing to hold their nose, put their blinders back on, and donate or volunteer for Obama and the Dems.

But second, **Occupy, which never fit into the norms of the media narrative, has also continued to grow and develop** in its own way, under the radar. In particular, Occupy is sinking roots in communities and building alliances based on direct action and participatory, horizontal organizing with other radical elements. In Los Angeles, at least 3 of the "Four Winds" from the May 1 General Strike are still active. In the north, Occupy San Fernando Valley has spearheaded home defense occupations against foreclosures in the mainly Mexicano Van Nuys area, particularly at "Fort Hernandez," a home threatened with foreclosure eviction by the LA Sheriffs acting for Bank of America. They are facing repression by the LAPD and other city agencies prior to a scheduled Sheriffs' raid.

The East Wind continues to work with the Brown Berets and other community groups in inner-city East L.A., focusing on the plague of police violence, among other issues. Occupy LA, which a year ago would not authorize a Committee Against Police Brutality, is now one of the main elements involved in building the October 22 Day of Action against police brutality. Occupy LA and Occupy OC have participated actively in opposing police murders and home foreclosures in Anaheim. The South Wind is working with the Black Riders Liberation Party, Occupy the Hood and Chuco's Justice Center on a community health fair, HIV education and prevention project and the development of a People's Clinic survival program.

Occupy L.A. continues its General Assemblies in Pershing Square, along with a weekly Freedom School. **OLA is planning a one-year commemoration and rededication from Friday, Sept. 28 through Monday, October 1.** The purpose is to bring people together, and then stay together to act on opposing the war in Afghanistan on October 6, opposing police brutality and political repression on October 22, and defending women and queers on Halloween in Hollywood on Oct. 31. Most of this is occurring out of sight of the corporate media, but all of this is part of remedying the isolation the media and the forces of repression are trying to impose on Occupy.

In this way, **Occupy, its off-shoots and allies may be able to solve the conundrum of how to be both an authentically revolutionary and a mass movement at the same time.**

Attica: 41 years later
September 9, 2012

by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Attica rebellion leaders, by forging multi-racial solidarity, set the tone for subsequent prisoner protests, including the recent mass hunger strikes, countering prison officials' exacerbation of racial tensions in an effort to divide and conquer.

The name Attica has entered the lexicon of American culture, driven in part by the cinema performance in "Dog Day Afternoon," when actor Al Pacino raised his fist and exclaimed, "Attica! Attica!"

Viewers immediately got the reference, for on Sept. 9, 1971, Attica – a reference to the state prison in upstate New York – was the biggest story in the country.

There, prisoners rebelled, took hostages and demanded to be treated as men. And the state, under orders of then-Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, unleashed a hail of bullets that killed dozens of men – prisoners and prison guards alike – and then lied about it.

Attica, politicians and prison reformers assured us, would be the harbinger of change. Never again, they said.

This September marks 41 years since that day of carnage and mass death – and things have changed – but not for the better.

According to a recent bulletin published by the New York state prison monitoring group, the Correctional Association, Attica remains a place of violence, fear, sexual and racist abuse and disrespect.

As in 1971, the staff is overwhelmingly white and rural, and prisoners are overwhelmingly Black, Latino and urban.

As in 1971, the joint is thick with tension.

As in 1971, the disrespect and maltreatment rolls down the hallways like dry tumbleweeds, waiting to ignite.

The Correctional Association has called for Attica to be shut down, as it remains a grim symbol of expensive, brutal failure.

If it does, it'll be 41 years too late.

© Copyright 2012 Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Read Mumia's latest book, "The Classroom and the Cell: Conversations on Black Life in America," co-authored by Columbia University professor Marc Lamont Hill, available from Third World Press, TWPBooks.com.

Keep updated at **www.freemumia.com**. For Mumia's commentaries, visit **www.prisonradio.org**. For recent interviews with Mumia, visit www.blockreportradio.com. Encourage the media to publish and broadcast Mumia's commentaries and interviews.

Send our brotha some love and light:
Mumia Abu-Jamal, AM 8335, SCI-Mahanoy,
301 Morea Road, Frackville, PA 17932.

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) **WE GO WHERE THEY GO:** Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

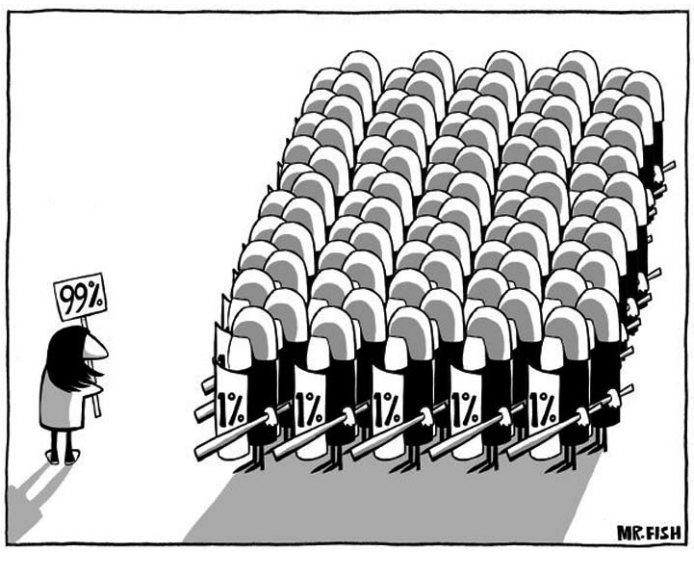
2) **WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US:** This doesn't mean we never go to court, but the cops uphold white supremacy and the status quo, They attack us and everyone that resists oppression. We must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) **NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS:** In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) **We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom.** ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a free classless society.

WE INTEND TO WIN!

Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror
(ARA-LA/PART)
PO Box 1055*CULVER CITY CA 90232*310-495-0299
antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com*www.antiracist.org



TURNING THE TIDE:
Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education
needs your help!

Postal and printing costs are up. Dozens of new prisoners ask to get free subs every month. Over 1500 copies of each edition are sent free to prisoners. Friends of ARA-LA/PART are in prison or facing prosecution for anti-racist, anti-fascist political activity. We had to switch to quarterly publication because of a lack of sufficient funds and staffing. We are asking prison subscribers to send us stamps.

What can you do?

We rely entirely on subscriptions and reader donations to publish. We've been coming out for 25 years, distributing thousands of copies to prisoners, anti-racists and other concerned people without partisan subsidy, government funds or corporate grants. We depend entirely on you, the reader, to keep printing hard-hitting anti-racist, anti-colonialist analysis.

If you like what you're reading –
Don't delay -- Subscribe today:
$16 individual/$26 institutional or international annual subscription.

No checks to Turning the Tide OR Anti-Racist Action, please! Can't process them!

Send cash or US POSTAL MONEY ORDER to Boxholder!

Send to: Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

ATTENTION PRISON SUBSCRIBERS!
Because of financial constraints, prisoners who want a subscription must send 4 stamps for a year.
Too many papers are coming back because of address changes, releases or other similar problems. Therefore, prisoners who want to continue their subs please write us at least once during the year, and every time your address changes, with your EXACT address as it should appear on the address label, to make sure the institution delivers it.

TTT is a small project with few resources:
We can't provide books or legal aid,
or investigate individuals' innocence.

Agreement to End Hostilities

August 12, 2012

To whom it may concern and all California Prisoners:

Greetings from the entire PBSP-SHU Short Corridor Hunger Strike Representatives. We are hereby presenting this mutual agreement on behalf of all racial groups here in the PBSP-SHU Corridor. Wherein, we have arrived at a mutual agreement concerning the following points:

1. If we really want to bring about substantive meaningful changes to the CDCR system in a manner beneficial to all solid individuals, who have never been broken by CDCR's torture tactics intended to coerce one to become a state informant via debriefing, that now is the time to for us to collectively seize this moment in time, and put an end to more than 20-30 years of hostilities between our racial groups.

2. Therefore, **beginning on October 10, 2012, all hostilities between our racial groups… in SHU, Ad-Seg, General Population, and County Jails, will officially cease**. This means that from this date on, all racial group hostilities need to be at an end… and if personal issues arise between individuals, people need to do all they can to exhaust all diplomatic means to settle such disputes; do not allow personal, individual issues to escalate into racial group issues!!

3. We also want to warn those in the General Population that IGI will continue to plant undercover Sensitive Needs Yard (SNY) debriefer "inmates" amongst the solid GP prisoners with orders from IGI to be informers, snitches, rats, and obstructionists, in order to attempt to disrupt and undermine our collective groups' mutual understanding on issues intended for our mutual causes [i.e., forcing CDCR to open up all GP main lines, and return to a rehabilitative-type system of meaningful programs/privileges, including lifer conjugal visits, etc. via peaceful protest activity/noncooperation e.g., hunger strike, no labor, etc. etc.]. People need to be aware and vigilant to such tactics, and refuse to allow such IGI inmate snitches to create chaos and reignite hostilities amongst our racial groups. We can no longer play into IGI, ISU, OCS, and SSU's old manipulative divide and conquer tactics!!!

In conclusion, we must all hold strong to our mutual agreement from this point on and focus our time, attention, and energy on mutual causes beneficial to all of us [i.e., prisoners], and our best interests. We can no longer allow CDCR to use us against each other for their benefit!!

Because the reality is that collectively, we are an empowered, mighty force, that can positively change this entire corrupt system into a system that actually benefits prisoners, and thereby, the public as a whole… and we simply cannot allow CDCR/CCPOA – Prison Guard's Union, IGI, ISU, OCS, and SSU, to continue to get away with their constant form of progressive oppression and warehousing of tens of thousands of prisoners, including the 14,000 (+) plus prisoners held in solitary confinement torture chambers [i.e. SHU/Ad-Seg Units], for decades!!! We send our love and respects to all those of like mind and heart… onward in struggle and solidarity…

Presented by the PBSP-SHU Short Corridor Collective:

Todd Ashker, C58191, D1-119
Arturo Castellanos, C17275, D1-121
Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa (Dewberry), C35671, D1-117
Antonio Guillen, P81948, D2-106

And the Representatives Body:
Danny Troxell, B76578, D1-120
George Franco, D46556, D4-217
Ronnie Yandell, V27927, D4-215
Paul Redd, B72683, D2-117
James Baridi Williamson, D-34288. D4-107
Alfred Sandoval, D61000, D4-214
Louis Powell, B59864, D1-104
Alex Yrigollen, H32421, D2-204
Gabriel Huerta, C80766, D3-222
Frank Clement, D07919, D3-116
Raymond Chavo Perez, K12922, D1-219
James Mario Perez, B48186, D3-124
[NOTE: All names and the statement must be verbatim when used & posted on any website or media, or non-media, publications]

November 17-24, 2012

Return to Support Front Line Resistance Communities on Big Mountain & Black Mesa, AZ

by the Black Mesa Indigenous Support Collective

With people across the country organizing protests, direct actions, an encampment and mounting anti-coal campaigns as a part of the 2012 Climate Summer of Solidarity* we wish to extend an invitation to return to Black Mesa. During this moment of peak visibility around climate chaos and extraction, we hope to honor and celebrate the nearly-40 year Indigenous-led resistance against cultural genocide, forced relocation, and massive coal mining on Black Mesa.

The genocide on Black Mesa has been recognized internationally. In the late 1980's the United Nations described the case of the forced relocation as one of the most flagrant violations of indigenous peoples' human rights in this hemisphere. As mentioned in the recent (2012) Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission report**, PL 93-531 violates human rights, not only because it relocated families to new homesites on a contaminated uranium site, but also because the families remaining on their ancestral homelands, blockading the coal mining and continuing their traditional way of life, are living with daily harassment and intimidation, including livestock impoundment, and surveillance. Also according to the report, "Navajo people are empowered by [the resistance communities'] steadfasteness, their sacrifice and their courage." As part of the larger support network, we've been inspired by these same qualities in the resistance communities.

The aim of this caravan is to honor the requests and words of the elders and their families--to prioritize building with returning supporters, while encouraging new people to come out throughout the year. With their guidance, we will carry their wishes and demands far beyond the annual caravan to link this struggle to our own decolonial practices and involvement in local social, environmental, and climate justice movements.

IMPORTANT: How is this year's caravan different?

This year's caravan is only open to returning on-land supporters. This means folks who have attended a caravan in the past, or who have done an on-land stay with a family or elder on Black Mesa. Based on the advice of Black Mesa/Big Mountain community members and advisors, we've decided to use the space of the caravan to build and organize with committed, returning supporters. Also by inviting folks who've already been to the land, BMIS is able to focus on building the network rather than orienting new supporters to the land. Three BMIS collective members are now living in Flagstaff, and have lots of capacity to orient new supporters throughout the rest of the year.

This year, there will be a two-day gathering of caravan participants and Black Mesa/Big Mountain community members at the end of the week, instead of one gathering at the beginning and one at the end.

This two-day gathering will be a time when participants get to hear from the Black Mesa/Big Mountain resistance communities, connect with each other, build political analysis, and share the work that we've been doing in our home communities throughout the year.

Since there is no opening gathering, you'll be in touch with the family you will stay with before the caravan begins. Please talk to them about specific requests that they have for their homesite.

Protocol:

1.Email BMIS at blackmesais@gmail.com with Subject Line: Caravan Protocol 2012.

2. If you are in touch with a family already and want to stay with them during the caravan, email BMIS and let us know who you are going to and how many people are in your crew.
3. If you need to be put in touch with a family, say so in the email.
4. Once you are in touch with the family, ask them what their specific requests are.
5. If you want to be on roving wood crew instead of staying with a family, say so in the email. If you choose to be on wood crew, try to come prepared with chainsaws, axes, mauls, and trucks if possible. Wood crew will only be 10-15 people.
6. Bring $10-$20 to contribute to meals at the end of the week gathering. We will pay someone from the land to butcher and prepare food.
7. EVERYONE (even though you are returning) needs to provide emergency contact information, allergy/illness information and any other pertinent information to their regional coordinator if you have one. The regional coordinator will compile this information for their crew and pass email it to BMIS. If you do not have a regional coordinator, contact BMIS with this information via email.

ALL OF THIS INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE SUBMITTED TO BMIS BY OCTOBER 31st, 2012!

Please help us make this a smoothly-organized event by cooperating with the protocols and deadline.

Again, this year's fall caravan is only open to returning supporters. Prior to visiting Black Mesa, please review the Cultural Sensitivity & Preparedness Guidebook: http://blackmesais.org/tag/cultural-sensitivity/

If you aren't a returning supporter and therefore aren't coming on the caravan but still want to be involved:

Stay with a family any time of the year or come with a small crew you organize with guidance from BMIS: Families living in resistance to coal mining and relocation laws are requesting self-sufficient guests who are willing to give three or more weeks of their time, especially in the winter. Contact BMIS in advance so that we can make arrangements prior to your stay, to answer any questions that you may have, and so we can help put you in touch with a family.

It is of the utmost importance that each guest understands and respects the ways of the communities that we will be visiting. Prior to visiting Black Mesa, all guests must read and sign the Cultural Sensitivity & Preparedness Guide:

http://blackmesais.org/tag/cultural-sensitivity/

Everyone can:

Host or attend regional organizational meetings in your area: We strongly urge participants to attend or organize regional meetings. There you'll engage in political education work and help regional coordinators plan logistics, fundraisers, and collect donated food and supplies ahead of time.

Raise Supplies: Trucks, chainsaws, & supplies are integral to the success of the caravan. The more trucks we have, the more wood, water, and other heavy loads we can transport. Axes, mauls, axe handles, shovels, tools of all kinds, organic food, warm blankets, and did we mention trucks? -- either to donate to families or to use for the week of the caravan--are greatly needed on the land to make this caravan work!

...continued on p. 4

In response to repeated requests from our prisoner subscribers, ***Turning the Tide*** is printing in this issue extensive resource lists for prisoners, in the belief that people in "minimum security" out here outside the walls need to step up our involvement in and support of such projects, given the centrality of the issue of mass incarceration and political imprisonment to an understanding of the true nature of this society and to the process of building effective resistance and revolutionary transformation. ***ARA-LA/PART*** itself is a small, unfunded project focused on production and distribution of ***Turning the Tide***, working within coalition efforts and grassroots movements such as the Jericho Amnesty Movement, the Occupy movement, Anti-Racist Action network and Pacifica to raise consciousness, but we are not in position to be a service provider to individual prisoners. We urge our readers with the capacity to do so, to participate in and support the projects listed here. Next issue will feature the Prison Library Project and other book providers.--***Editor***

PRISONER RESOURCES

Prison Activist Resource Center (PARC)
PO Box 70447
Oakland, CA 94612
510.893.4648
info@prisonactivist.org

PARC is a prison abolitionist group based on Oakland, California committed to exposing and challenging the institutionalized racism, sexism, ableism, heterosexism, and classism of the Prison Industrial Complex.

Our Projects: Prisoner's Voices

With the thousands of letters received from prisoners we are given a window into the lives and experiences of people inside. The letters come in many forms: personal accounts, essays, poetry, etc. We have picked through and chosen the most powerful writings and retyped them unedited so that the public is aware of the terrible abuses and the amazing examples of survival and strength that these prisoners show.

Prisoner Support Directory

PARC corresponds with and mails this resource packet to prisoners, their friends and family members. We are often the first point of contact for people to connect with prisoners' rights organizations, community organizations, prison literature and arts projects, family and visiting resources, health care and legal resources, parole and pre-release resources, and the prison abolition movement.

If you are an organization that will use this directory to support prisoners who contact you, please send us a 65 cent stamp with your request and we will send you an original copy.

Past Projects: Toxic Sweatshops
"Toxic Sweatshops: How UNICOR Prison Recycling Harms Workers, Communities, the Environment, and the Recycling Industry" was released in October 2006. It is an important look into the world of the Prison Industrial Complex and the modern slavery that makes it a multi-million dollar a year business.

Prison Issues Curriculum
PARC's Prison Issues Curriculum is designed to provide information, stimulate discussion and inspire community action for High School classes. This four part series covers issues such as: the Criminalization of Youth, the Death Penalty, Who's in Prison, and Prison Profits. While we are not actively updating the curriculum right now, as we are focusing on other projects, we do still send out the curriculum upon request. To request a copy, contact PARC with your address and request.

Political Prisoners

PARC works with prisonersof all types across the country, but wants to call special attention to high profile prisoners we believe are being kept in prison for political reasons.

Sample resources from the PARC Directory of Prisoner Resources:

ABC South Chicago Zine Distro
1321 N. Milwaukee AVE PMB 460
Chicago, IL 60622
midwestbooks@yahoo.com
A Rayson/South Chicago ABC Zine Distro,
PO Box 721, Homewood IL, 60430-8721

Offers a wide variety of political zines at low cost to prisoners. Specializes in helping get the truth out of the gulags, in zine form. Supports prisoner initiatives such as prisoner labor unions. Offers zines for women prisoners. Sorry, available in English only.

Allied Resistance
P.O. Box 442438 c/o Kansas Mutual Aid
Lawerence, KS 66044
kansasmutualaid@hotmail.com
Monthly publication of prisoner revolutionaries dedicated to build to build a movement for a just and sustainable future. $1 or 4 stamp donations suggested. Ask for info about prisoner labor union.

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
National Prison Project
915 15th St. NW 7th Floor
Washington DC, DC 20005
(202) 393-4930
http://www.aclu.org/prisoners-rights
The ACLU National Prison Project is dedicated to ensuring that our nation's prisons, jails, and other places of detention comply with the Constitution, domestic law, and international human rights principles, and to ending the policies that have given the United States the highest incarceration rate in the world. We promote a fair and effective criminal justice system in which incarceration is used only as a last resort, and its purpose is to prepare prisoners for release and a productive, law-abiding life at the earliest possible time. Write for a list of publications and the contact info for the ACLU office in your state.

Barrios Unidos
1817 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
(831) 457-8208
http://www.barriosunidos.net/
Post-release services. Performs Pow-wow/ Cinco De Mayo/Juneteenth ceremonies at Tracy and info packet related to cultural traditions.

California Coalition for Women Prisoners
1540 Market St. #6
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 255-7036 x314
http://www.womenprisoners.org/ info@womenprisoners.org
Runs action center and produces newsletter "The Fire Inside". CCWP is a grassroots social justice organization, with members inside and outside prison, that challenges the institutional violence imposed on women, transgender people, and communities of color by the prison industrial complex (PIC). We see the struggle for racial and gender justice as central to dismantling the PIC and we prioritize the leadership of the people, families, and communities most impacted in building this movement.

CCWP es una organización que lucha para el cambio de las condiciones de violencia impuestas en las mujeres, las personas transexuales y las comunidades de color por las prisiones y el sistema criminal de justicia. Estamos construyendo un movimiento con mujeres en prisión, familiares de las prisioneras y la comunidad amplia a través de la organización, el desarrollo del liderazgo y la educación política.

OTHER PRISON RESOURCES:

Black Riders Liberation Party
PO Box 8297,
Los Angeles CA 90008
(323) 289-4457
blackriderslp@yahoo.com
The BRLP is a revolutionary African Inter-Communalist organization, the new generation Black Panther Party for self-defense, which is building a nation-wide prison chapter and also participates in the Jericho Amnesty Movement Los Angeles chapter.

Chicano-Mexicano Prison Project
c/o Union del Barrio
P.O. Box 13036
San Diego, CA 92170
info@uniondelbarrio.org
619-398-6648
The CMPP holds a conference on Raza prisoners and colonialism. Their goal is to put an end to the social-economic system known as "capitalism-colonialism", which gave birth to and maintains the concentration camps, and profits from the incarceration hundreds of thousands of people.

White Panther Organization
PO Box 4362
Allentown PA 18105-4362
The WPO is prison-based, class-conscious, and operates under the leadership of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party-Prison Chapter. They put out an occasional journal featuring historical and analytical articles.

Return to Big Mountain & Black Mesa, AZ

...continued from p. 3

BMIS has a 501-C3 tax-deductible number so if you need that contact us.

Challenge Colonialism: One of BMIS's main organizing goals is to highlight anti-colonial education within all the regional meetings leading up to the caravan. In addition to the Cultural Sensitivity Guide, we encourage you to bring articles, films, and other resources to your regional meetings and host discussions that further our collective understanding for transforming colonialism, white supremacy, genocide, and all intersections of oppression.

For more, please check out the BMIS collective's Points Of Unity. Feel free to share with us any resources that you like so that we can build upon this list and strengthen our growing support network.

The Black Mesa Indigenous Support Collective:
Hallie, Liza, Berkley, Derek, & Tree

Black Mesa Indigenous Support (BMIS) is a grassroots, all-volunteer collective committed to supporting the indigenous peoples of Black Mesa in their resistance to massive coal mining operations and to the forced relocation policies of the US government.

We see ourselves as a part of a people powered uprising for a healthy planet liberated from fossil fuel extraction, exploitative economies, racism, and oppression for our generation and generations to come. BMIS stands with the elders of Black Mesa in their declaration that "Coal is the Mother Earth's liver" and joins them in action to ensure that coal remains in the ground.

Check out some of the Climate Summer of Solidarity Actions here:
http://summerofsolidarity.tumblr.com/

**Read the NNHRC Report on Relocation here:
http://www.nnhrc.navajo-nsn.gov/pressReleases/TheImpactofthe_Navajo-Hopi_SettlementActof1974--P.L.93-531.pdf

Black Mesa Water Coalition

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Black Mesa Indigenous Support
P.O. Box 23501
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Estimates of the number of "innocent" people in prison vary widely, but DNA testing has exonerated numerous people accused of capital crimes, and the evidence of widespread prosecutorial misconduct, institutional racism within the criminal justice system as chronicled by Michelle Wallace in "The New Jim Crow," and abusive policing is incontrovertible. Many prisoners write to ***Turning the Tide*** seeking assistance with legal claims and appeals that we cannot provide. We are printing this resource list, obtained primarily from the Innocence Project in the hopes it may help prisoners reverse individual injustices, as well as build the larger social movement to abolish prisons entirely.--***Editor***

Resources to Assist on Claims of Factual Innocence

To submit a case to the Innocence Project

The Innocence Project is not equipped to handle case applications or inquiries by email or over the phone. All case submissions and follow-up correspondence will be handled by mail or overnight delivery services only.

If you are seeking legal assistance, please read the following guidelines for submitting your case.

All cases for consideration should be mailed (to the address above) with a brief factual summary of the case, including the specific charges and convictions and a list of the evidence used against the defendant. No other documents should be submitted for initial review. The Innocence Project is not equipped to handle telephone or electronic (email) applications.

The Innocence Project only accepts cases on post-conviction appeal in which DNA testing can prove innocence. If the case does not involve biological evidence or DNA, check the Other Innocence Organizations listed below to see if there is a program in your area that provides broader legal and investigative assistance.

Defendants in California and Wisconsin: We are NOT currently accepting new cases from California or Wisconsin. If you are looking for assistance in Wisconsin, please contact the Wisconsin Innocence Project.

California: If the conviction/crime occurred in **southern California**, please contact the California Innocence Project at http://www.californiainnocenceproject.org/, or write 225 Cedar Street, San Diego, CA 92101. (619) 525-1485. The counties covered by the California Innocence Project are: Kern, Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura. California Western School of Law is home to the California Innocence Project. Students at California Western work to free wrongfully convicted inmates by reviewing more than 1000 claims of innocence each year and focusing on cases where there is evidence of actual innocence. Innocence Project attorneys and students then investigate cases by securing expert witnesses and advocating for their clients during evidentiary hearings and trials. All approved expenditures and distributions from this fund will be made until the entirety of funds, including investment gains or losses, have been distributed.

If the conviction/crime occurred in any other Calif. county, please contact the Northern California Innocence Project at http://law.scu.edu/ncip/index.cfm, Northern California Innocence Project, Santa Clara University School of Law, 900 Lafayette Street, Suite 105, Santa Clara, CA 95050, Phone: (408) 554-4790, Fax: (408) 554-5440, E-mail: ncip@scu.edu

NOTE: The Innocence Project is not affiliated with an organization operating under the name "American Innocence Project" and the American Innocence Project does not have authorization to solicit funds under the Innocence Project name. If you have been contacted this group or a similar organization, please contact us at:

info@innocenceproject.org.

Graphic by MacPhee for Prison Activist Resource Center

ALASKA
Alaska Innocence Project
P.O. Box 201656
Anchorage, AK 99520-1656
Phone: 907-279-0454

ARIZONA
Justice Project, Inc.
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University
PO BOX 877906
Tempe, AZ 85287-7906
Phone: 480-727-0009
Fax: 480-727-9157

Arizona Innocence Project
Department of Criminal Justice
Northern Arizona University
P.O. Box 15005
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5005
Phone: 928-523-9979

ARKANSAS
Innocence Project Arkansas
School of Law Legal Clinic
Robert A. Leflar Law Center
1 University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701
479-575-3056

CALIFORNIA
California Innocence Project
California Western School of Law
225 Cedar Street
San Diego, CA 92101
Phone: 619-525-1485

Northern California Innocence Project at Santa Clara University
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053-0422
Phone: 408-554-1945

University of California - Irvine
(not a network member)
Department of Criminology, Law & Society
University of California
Irvine, CA 92697-7080

COLORADO
Colorado Innocence Project
404 UCB
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0404

CONNECTICUT
Connecticut Innocence Project
c/o McCarter & English
Cityplace I
185 Asylum Street, 36th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
Phone: 860-275-6140

New England Innocence Project
Exchange Place
53 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: 617-305-6505

DELAWARE
Office of the Public Defender
Carvel State Building
820 French Street, 3rd Floor
Wilimington, DE 19801

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016
Phone: 202-895-4519

FLORIDA
Innocence Project of Florida
1100 E. Park Ave.
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone: 850-561-6767

Miami Law Innocence Clinic
3000 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 100
Miami, FL 33137
Phone: 305-284-8115

Innocence Denied journal
(not a network member)
PO Box 731464
Ormond Beach FL 32173-1464

GEORGIA
Georgia Innocence Project
2645 North Decatur Road
Decatur, GA 30033
Phone: 404-373-4433

HAWAI'I
Hawai'i Innocence Project
2515 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: 808-956-6547

IDAHO
Idaho Innocence Project
Mail Stop 1515
Boise State University
1910 University Drive
Boise, ID 83725-1515
Phone: 208-426-4207

ILLINOIS
Center on Wrongful Convictions **
Northwestern University School of Law
357 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: 312-502-3291

Medill Innocence Project
Northwestern University
1845 N. Sheridan Ave.
Evanston, IL 60208
Phone: 847-491-5840

Illinois Innocence Project
Institute for Legal and Policy Studies at the UI at Springfield
One University Plaza
MS Public Affairs Center 451
Springfield, IL 62703-5407
Phone: 217-206-6569

Life After Innocence
Loyola University School of Law
25 East Pearson Street
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: 312-915-8609

INDIANA
Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis
Clinic, Wrongful Convictions Component
735 West New York Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Phone: 317-274-5551

IOWA
Innocence Project of Iowa
P.O. Box 93
Estherville, Iowa 51335

Midwest Innocence Project
6320 Brookside Plaza #1500
Kansas City, MO 64113
Phone: 816-221-2166

KANSAS
Midwest Innocence Project
6320 Brookside Plaza #1500
Kansas City, MO 64113
Phone: 816-221-2166

KENTUCKY
Kentucky Innocence Project
100 Fair Oaks Lane
Ste. 301
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: 502-564-3948

LOUISIANA
Innocence Project New Orleans
3301 Chartres Street
New Orleans, LA 70117
Phone: 504-943-1902

Resurrection After Exoneration
3301 Chartres Street
New Orleans, LA 70117
Phone: 504-943-1902

MAINE
New England Innocence Project
Exchange Place
53 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: 617-305-6505

MARYLAND
Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016
Phone: 202-274-4199

University of Baltimore Innocence Project Clinic
40 West Chase Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
Phone: 410-837-6543

MASSACHUSETTS
New England Innocence Project
Goodwin Procter LLP
Exchange Place
53 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: 617-305-6505

Committee for Public Counsel Services Innocence Program
44 Bromfield Street
Boston, MA 02108

Justice Brandeis Innocence Project
Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism
Brandeis University
415 South Street, MS 043
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: 781-736-4953

MICHIGAN
Thomas M. Cooley Innocence Project
300 S. Capitol Ave. P.O. Box 13038
Lansing, MI 48901
Phone: 517-371-5140

Michigan Innocence Clinic
1029 Legal Research Building
625 State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
Phone: 734-763-9353

MINNESOTA
Innocence Project of Minnesota
Hamline University School of Law
1536 Hewitt Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
Phone: 651-523-3152

MISSISSIPPI
Mississippi Innocence Project
University of Mississippi School of Law
P.O. Box 1848
University, MS 38677
Phone: 662-915-5206

MISSOURI
Midwest Innocence Project
6320 Brookside Plaza #1500
Kansas City, MO 64113
Phone: 816-221-2166

MONTANA
Montana Innocence Project
P.O. Box 7607
Missoula, MT 59807
Phone: 406-243-6698

NEBRASKA
Nebraska Innocence Project
P.O. Box 24183
Omaha, NE 68124-0183
Phone: 402-280-3062

NEVADA
Rocky Mountain Innocence Center
358 South 700 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
Phone: 801-355-1888

NEW HAMPSHIRE
New England Innocence Project
Exchange Place
53 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: 617-305-6505

NEW JERSEY
Centurion Ministries
(Not a network member)
221 Witherspoon Street
Princeton, NJ 08542

NEW MEXICO
Innocence and Justice Project
University of New Mexico School of Law
1117 Stanford NE
Albuquerque, NM 87131
Phone: 505-277-2671

NEW YORK
Innocence Project at Benjamin N. Cardozo Law School - Yeshiva U.
40 Worth St., Suite 701
New York, NY 10013
Phone: 212-364-5340

Second Look Program
(Not a network member)
Brooklyn Law School
250 Joralemon Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Pace Post-Conviction Project
Barbara C. Salken Criminal Justice Clinic
78 North Broadway, Room G210
White Plains, NY 10603
Phone: 914-422-4230

Reinvestigation Project
Office of the Appellate Defender
11 Park Place, Suite 1601
New York, NY 10007
Phone: 212-402-4100

The Exoneration Initiative
350 Broadway, Suite 1207
New York, NY 10013
Phone: 212-965-9335

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Anti-Racist Action Network 18th Annual Conference

by Arch City ARA (Columbus OH)

Arch City ARA is pleased to announce that we will be holding the Anti-Racist Action Network's 18th annual conference this year in our hometown of Columbus, OH during October 12th-15th.

This year's conference is especially important to us because it marks a return to the city where the first official ARA conference took place in 1994, as well as falling on the weekend of the 7th anniversary of the Toledo Riots, a historic victory for antifascists and the Black community against the National Socialist Movement on October 15, 2005.

The conference will include ARA's annual plenary, caucuses, and discussion on current issues facing antifascists. All said events will be held privately. Any non-network vouched chapters or individuals who want to be involved please contact Arch City ahead of time at archcity@antiracistaction.org to fill out registrations and get vouched in.

Arch City ARA
archcityara.blogspot.com
archcity@antiracistaction.org

Why doesn't ARA rely on the cops or the courts?

Most anti-racist groups focus all their efforts on creating new laws or getting the police to respond to racism. But the cops uphold white supremacy and the status quo; they attack us and everyone that resists oppression. This means that police are not likely to get involved with fighting racist and fascists until they have hurt or killed someone. We think that that's too late and that any anti-racist group that doesn't organize an effective opposition to racist and fascists before they hurt people is not doing their job.

Another problem with anti-racist groups that work closely with the police is that they are afraid to criticize the police when they pull racist, sexist, or homophobic shit. By maintaining a distance from the legal system, ARA is in a better position to call the cops and the courts on racist practices and behaviors.

I saw some ARA people wearing masks at an action. What's up with that?

You probably also noticed bigots with cameras at that same action. Racists like to take pictures of anti-racists so that they'll be able to identify them and attack them later on. To protect our safety, we sometimes choose to wear masks so that we don't have to worry about racists attacking us, or people close to us, after or outside of an action.

What is fascism?

ARA recognizes a number of characteristics of fascist movements. Fascism is an ultra-nationalist ideology that mobilizes around and glorifies a national or perceived racial identity, valuing this identity above all other interests (for example gender or class). Fascism is marked by its hostility towards reason and human solidarity, by its dehumanization and scapegoating of marginalized or oppressed groups, by its use of violence or threats of violence to impose its views on others, and by its rejection of supposedly "effeminate" or "soft" values in favor of "manliness." Anti-Semitism and racism are primary facets of National Socialism and most other varieties of fascism. Fascism aims at a militarized society, and organizes along military or quasi-military lines, usually with an authoritarian structure revolving around a single, charismatic leader. Fascist groups may have the facade of an efficient and dynamic organization, but in reality, power structures are arbitrary and ruthless. Fascists use anti-elitist rhetoric to appeal to the "common man," coupled with internal elitism and willingness to accept support from existing elites. Fascism glorifies a mythologized past as justification for its present ideological stances, and as a basis for future organization of society.

Check us out at www.antiracistaction.org

Resources to Assist on Claims of Factual Innocence

...continued from p. 5

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence
PO Box 52446
Shannon Plaza Station
Durham, NC 27717
Phone: 919-489-3268

The Duke Center for Criminal Justice and Professional Responsibility
Duke University School of Law
PO Box 90360
Durham, NC 27708
Phone: 919-613-7241

Wake Forest University Law School and Innocence and Justice Clinic
1834 Wake Forest Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27109
Phone: 336-758-6111

NORTH DAKOTA

Innocence Project of Minnesota
(Only DNA cases in North Dakota)
Hamline University School of Law
1536 Hewitt Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
Phone: 651-523-3152

OHIO

Ohio Innocence Project
University of Cincinnati College of Law
P.O. Box 210040
Cincinnatti, OH 45221-0020
Phone: 513-556-0752

Office of the Ohio Public Defender, Wrongful Conviction Project
250 East Broad Street
Suite 1400
Columbus, OH43215
Phone: 614-466-5394

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Indigent Defense System - DNA Forensic Testing Program
(Not a network member)
P.O. Box 926
Norman, OK 73070

Oklahoma Innocence Project
OCU School of Law
2501 North Blackwedder
Oklahoma City, OK 73106
Phone: 405-208-6161

PENNSYLVANIA

Duquesne Law Post-Conviction DNA Project
(Not a network member)
600 Forbes Avenue, 632 Fisher Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

Pennsylvania Innocence Project
Temple University Beasley School of Law
1719 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122
Phone: 215-204-4255

RHODE ISLAND

New England Innocence Project
Exchange Place
53 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: 617-305-6505

SOUTH CAROLINA

Palmetto Innocence Project
P.O. Box 11623
Columbia, SC 29211

SOUTH DAKOTA

Innocence Project of South Dakota
USD School of Law
414 East Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069
Phone: 605-677-5361

Innocence Project of Minnesota
(Only DNA cases in South Dakota)
Hamline University School of Law
1536 Hewitt Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
Phone: 651-523-3152

TEXAS

Texas Center for Actual Innocence
University of Texas School of Law
727 East Dean Keeton Street
Austin, TX 78705

Innocence Project of Texas
1511 Texas Avenue
Lubbock, TX 79401
Phone: 806-744-6525

Wesleyan Innocence Project
Texas Wesleyan Univesity School of Law
1515 Commerce St.
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Thurgood Marshall School of Law Innocence Project
3100 Cleburne Street
Houston, TX 77004
Phone: 713-313-1139

UTAH

Rocky Mountain Innocence Center
358 South 700 East, B235
Salt Lake City, UT 84103
Phone: 801-355-1888

VERMONT

New England Innocence Project
Exchange Place
53 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: 617-305-6505

VIRGINIA

Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016
Phone: 202-274-4199

Innocence Project at UVA School of Law
580 Massie Road
Charlottesville, VA 22901
Phone: 434-924-7315

WASHINGTON

Innocence Project Northwest Clinic
University of Washington School of Law
William H. Gates Hall, Suite 265
P.O. Box 85110
Seattle, WA 98145-1110
Phone: 206-543-5780

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Innocence Project
University of Wisconsin Law School
Remington Center
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: 608-265-1160

WYOMING

Rocky Mountain Innocence Center
358 South 700 East, B235
Salt Lake City, UT 84103 Phone: 801-355-1888

The Struggle for KPFK and Pacifica Radio

Climbing Mt. Wilson

by Leslie Radford

"KPFK 90.7 FM, radio powered by the people, is coming to you from studios in North Hollywood broadcasting at 112,000 watts from atop Mt. Wilson." That was the proud KPFK station ID just a few years ago. Today the studios, formerly bustling with hundreds of volunteer producers and programmers airing dozens of diverse programs, almost echo in their emptiness, and the transmitter requires an FCC waiver to keep broadcasting at reduced power.

But imagine...a radio station that inspires you to support it by volunteering or donating, and that everyone you know supports, refers to and turns to for breaking news, thoughtful analysis and cutting-edge cultural programming.

...a radio station that radicals and progressives in Southern California listen to and talk about, because it broadcasts the voices of Southern California radicals and progressives and of the communities it serves.

...a radio station that features all the diverse voices of Southern California, incarcerated, queer, Black, poor, straight, Brown, those fixing the system, needing food or health care, the unhoused, Indigenous, people providing housing or food or healthcare, those upsetting the system, who fight for liberation, who unite for justice.

That KPFK is the vision of Grassroots Community Radio Collective, running candidates for Local Station Board.

KPFK was famous for its cutting edge programming through most of its first half-century, opposing war in Southeast Asia, Central America and the Middle East and repression in the US from COINTELPRO to the USA PATRIOT Act. But in its second half-century it has succumbed to mainstream pressures, even as the impact of war, poverty, ecological collapse, inequality, and injustice intensify on the populations it serves, and the need for critical thought increases. A program grid once a marquee for challenging, informative local shows is filling up with shows from outside producers, or produced in-house but stripped of local color so they can be syndicated across the Pacifica network. Programs that stimulate and inspire audiences outside KPFK's reliance on white and middle-class donations are under attack.Programming that hews to a narrow electoral political tendency is waiting in the wings to replace them. Shows produced by collectives now have single hosts on the air. The once-frenetic news department with two directors and a dozen or more stringers has been reduced to one or two stories about SoCal aired on the "Pacifica Evening News" produced in Berkeley. A network that styles itself progressive meets regularly at non-union hotels and until pressed by members of GCRC and our allies at other stations, had hired a notorious union-busting law firm as consultants and outside counsel.

This is the result of a plan put in place just over three years ago by an interim Executive Director of Pacifica to make over KPFK and its four sister stations in the network. Four of five Pacifica general managers were replaced. Except for one, all the Black and Brown station management members resigned or were purged. Now the Executive Director has again been replaced by an interim ED from the same dominant faction. We cannot afford to wait for the other shoe to drop.

High atop Mt. Wilson, operating at half of its power, a formerly badass radio transmitter awaits its champions. KPFK is governed democratically, with representatives of listeners and staff elected by station members. This year's election campaign is underway, and a slate of candidates united under the banner of the Grassroots Community Radio Collective are running to push to the top of the mountain and plant Pacifica's radical flag firmly in the 21st century. For most of the past two years, the local Board has been split down the middle. This election provides a chance for listeners to speak out clearly in favor of a grassroots community orientation, greater accountability and transparency, more inter-activity with listeners on the air and over the station's social media platforms, including its under-utilized website, and programming pertinent to the pressing survival issues facing us all, particularly communities of color and working people.

The candidates of GCRC are determined to restore KPFK to its mission of peace, justice, and news on all matters vitally affecting the community. Theirs is a re-visioning of the station, from its current course of syndicated, cookie-cutter programming and to culturally diverse community shows. GCRC candidates pledge to help build a KPFK tnot just listener-sponsored, but listener-owned; not a disembodied voice intoning enlightenment, but the voices of people learning, rising up, creating and sharing a new and better way of living.

Here's our plan. GCRC candidates and members across the Los Angeles basin and into Orange, Ventura, Riverside, and San Diego counties, will go listen to KPFK listeners, ask for votes, and recruit listeners to join the effort. KPFK's slide to irrelevance and eventual insolvency can only be turned around with the committed pushback of KPFK listeners.

If GCRC can secure a solid majority on the KPFK Local Station Board and strong representation on the Pacifica National Board, then the rebuilding will begin. First to be restructured is the failed fundraising model that relies on ever-longer fund drives, 'selling' premiums more akin to swag bags than to education to an ever-smaller audience. That failed funding model is driving away even devoted listeners and the network has plans for more staff cuts.

GCRC candidates pledge to reverse ever-longer on-air fund drives by diversifying income streams. Instead of the same re-repeated interview with the same marketer, GCRC board members will work with station management to promote community events, local performance and event sponsorships, and grassroots appeals. When they do, they will be liberating radio time from fund drive pitching for KPFK's message; no more enduring incessant infomercials. Enthusiastic program hosts will use fund drives to break out of their show's normal format to talk with listeners about the station and its future. Today's promises of narcissistic "gifts" with little connection to the station's mission will be gone. No more claims to defy aging with cold cream, or forty hours of DVDs to explain why it's the listener's fault she's not wealthy. Donors will receive premiums culled from community events, exciting performance and insightful books.

Step 2 is to return KPFK to self-sufficiency, as the Pacifica Mission calls for. That requires local control of programming. Under the current makeover model, programs are purchased from franchisers including even NPR, and or produced in-house to be redistributed nationwide. Instead, KPFK will cultivate technology that allows local producers and reporters to record and broadcast live from within our communities, at bookstores and cafes, from sites of protest, adding real-time analysis to breaking stories, and interviewing people as events occur.

Imagine hearing speeches at an immigrants' rights march on your drive to work, or catching an anti-war protest you couldn't attend while you eat lunch. Rather than bringing authors into the studio, why not host and broadcast discussions at book signings?

Step 3 is inclusion. The failed makeover model has narrowed KPFK's focus to chiefly middle-class, chiefly white, and chiefly older people. There's been sustained resistance to that focus, so some diverse programming remains, but producers of "alternative" programming, nearly all volunteers, work under the sword of cancellation. KPFK should be an incubator for new voices, for the study of antagonisms as the Pacifica Mission calls for. Longtime, dominant-culture programmers have to concede turf to young, non-traditional, and so-called "minority" voices.

What if you turned on the radio and heard a semi-monthly program on immigration produced and hosted by Dreamers, the youth without papers and without fear, whose parents could be disappeared tomorrow? Ever wonder what an anarchist organizing meeting would sound like? What if you could tune in and hear one? Have you heard music by The Coup or Anti-Flag, socially conscious rapper on KPFK, and why not? The South Central Farmers forced the mayor to address the greening of Los Angeles. What could they contribute to a discussion on KPFK of Los Angeles ecology, food production and distribution, permaculture and organic farming?

Listeners and members can volunteer at KPFK. Call the station and ask to learn to make radio, or answer the phones, or table at events. If you're a member, when your KPFK ballot arrives give the GCRC your highest votes. Those candidates are **Armida Corral** of the ADA, **Jamie Garcia** of Occupy LA Wellness, **Aryana Gladney** of the Black Riders Liberation Party, Dr. **Sonia Parada**, **Thomas Halle** who worked on the Community Advisory Board, **John Kenney** of Occupy San Diego, **Jack Neff** who works on the Kuruvungna Springs indigenous land project, **George Olivo** of Occupy Orange County, **Reza Pour** of the Federation of Progressive Iranians, and **Lawrence Reyes** of the Puerto Rican Alliance and the Latino Caucus of SEIU 721. Aryana and Lawrence are current LSB members and Reza is a former member from Grassroots. They bring a combination of Pacifica experience, fresh perspective and accountability to the communities that KPFK sorely needs. (GCRC is also backing staff candidates Rodrigo Argueta and Orlando Rocha.)There's a transmitter on Mr. Wilson, and it's working at half capacity. There's a half-empty radio station in North Hollywood. Imagine what they could be, imagine what the Grassroots Community Radio Coalition sees. Join with GCRC, and be the champions who climb Mt. Wilson. There's a transmitter to power up, and a station to rebuild. **www.gcrc-socal.org 323-540-GCRC (4272).**

Leslie Radford is a former member of the KPFK LSB and the Pacifica National Board.

A Virtual Pilgrimage Regarding Racism

By Louie Crew

I used Google Earth (free) to make a virtual pilgrimage to physical places in my life where I witnessed racism or interacted significantly across color lines. Google Earth allows one to traverse streets in any direction.

I revisited Woolworth's, which during my childhood used brown porcelain and white porcelain to indicate who was to drink from a water fountain.

I visited the bus station in my home town, where Freedom Riders were assaulted, and the site just out of town where their bus was burned.

I revisited Foster Auditorium at the University of Alabama, where George Wallace 'stood in the school house door' before President Kennedy nationalized the Alabama Guard

I revisited the homes of Black people who worked for my family, including the home of Eula Jackson, who spent the most time with me as a child. Years later, I showed her Ernest's picture and said: "This is the man I married." She exclaimed, "Lord o' mercy, I brought you up right!"

I revisited our first home together at 701 Orange Street, in Fort Valley, GA where Ernest and I carried each other (one at a time) across the threshold on February 2, 1974. A bishop said we caused the local tornado.

I visited the home of Fleming Edwards, Jr., who was in a secret intelligence unit during the Korean war but could not even make a go of it repairing TVs through Dad's hardware store because "white" people would not let a Black man come into their homes during the day.

I revisited Woods Hall, where I taught Robert Freeman freshman English, one of the early students to integrate the University of Alabama. Later he pushed cars all one summer to become one of Bear Bryant's first Black players.

I revisited the route of the ice-wagon through my neighborhood; the driver had befriended me when I was on a Boy Scout hike for a week in the Talladega National Forest, ca. 1948.

I revisited the house of Julia Green, who drank a glass full of DDT in our breakfast room when her boyfriend was jailed, and then handed me her suicide note to give to my parents. She survived, but lost her job.

I revisited McCallie School, where Pat Robertson 10 years before me had the same bible teacher, Dr. J. P. McCallie. We were segregated from half of the community.

I revisited St. Andrew's School in Middletown, Delaware, where I brought my first TV out from hiding to watch non-stop several days of coverage of the assassination of JFK. We had no black students or colleagues.

I revisited my home in Tuscaloosa where I first learned of Dr. King's assassination....

I recommend this discipline to other people of European descent. Make a list of the Black people who most directly connected to you in your life, and revisit those places as prompts for meditation.

Louie Crew is an emeritus professor at Rutgers. Editors have published 2,225 of his manuscripts, including four poetry volumes. Crew has edited special issues of ***College English*** and ***Margins***. You can follow his work at

http://rci.rutgers.edu/~lcrew/pubs.html

See also http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louie_Crew.

The University of Michigan collects Mr. Crew's papers.

Contact Crew at lcrew@andromeda.rutgers.edu

Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee
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Culver City CA 90232

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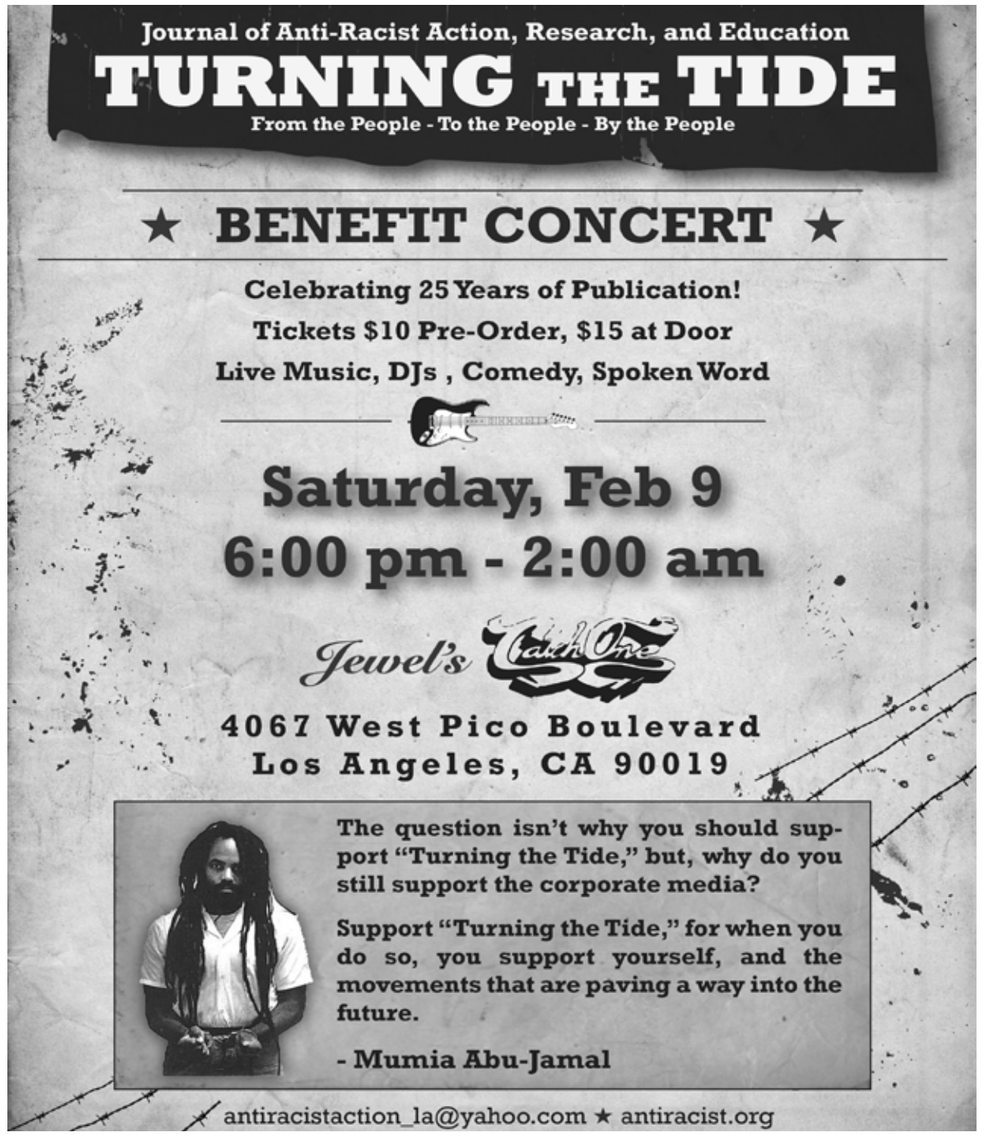

Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

TURNING THE TIDE

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BUILD THE INTER-COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE!

Unite to Defeat the Common Enemy!

Anti-Racist Action-L.A./People Against Racist Terror
PO Box 1055 * Culver City CA 90232 * 323-540-4272
www.antiracist.org*antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

Author's note: The Black Riders Liberation Party (BRLP) launched the Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee in Los Angeles, CA with a gathering at the Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research on Saturday November 10, 2012. At this event, numerous activist and community members from different races, philosophies and ideological lines came together to form the Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee. The idea to form this committee comes from our study of the Black Panther Party's (BPP) forming the National Committee to Combat Fascism (NCCF), which would later become the Inter-communal Committee to Combat Fascism (ICCF). This paper is a historical analysis of our theoretical framework for this development.

UNITARY CONDUCT:

BUILDING THE INTER-COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

by Shango Abiola for the ***Black Riders Liberation Party***

"Unitary Conduct implies a 'search' for those elements in our present situation which can become the basis for joint action. It involves a conscious reaching for the relevant, the entente, and especially, in our case the reconcilable. Throughout the centralizing authoritarian process of Amerikan history, the ruling classes have found it necessary to discourage and punish any genuine opposition to hierarchy. But there have always been individuals and groups who rejected the ideal of two unequal societies, existing one on top of the other." George Jackson, ***Blood in My Eye.***

In analyzing this war we are engaged in today, we can see a lot of political strikes being launched against the most fascist arm of this kkkapitalist government, the Prison Industrial Complex. These are coming mostly from the prisoners themselves, in a series of hunger and labor strikes from Georgia to Ohio, North Carolina, California and more. Many warriors from behind enemy lines have given a much-needed spark of intensity to the Left. Or at least this has happened to the organizations with enough analysis to pay attention.

The ideological swords have been swung! From the belly of the beast we have received marching orders to pick up the pace and be a better reflection of what our comrades are doing in the concentration camps of the enemy! What alternative do we have, when we consider the call put out in September by the Short Corridor Collective in the Pelican Bay SHU? "Beginning on Oct. 10, 2012, all hostilities between our racial groups in SHU, ad-seg, general population and county jails will officially cease" Thanks to the courage of the short corridor collective and all the prisoners who have been unifying and working to dismantle the beast across the country, the stage has been set for unitary conduct for the purpose of creating and sustaining Inter-Communal Solidarity.

We need only look below the corporate media surface to see that ALL working class people are subjected to the treacherous exploitation of the kkkapitalist system. At the same time Black and Brown folks (mostly lumpen) are targeted and super-exploited economically and racially, directly and indirectly. Whether they have been to prison themselves, or if their family or community has been ripped apart by prison, we see the PIC today as not much different from the chattel slavery this country was built on. When we see that every 36 hours a Black person in this country is murdered by law enforcement, we know slavery hasn't gone anywhere. When we see there are more Black people in prison today than were held in chattel slavery in 1850, we know slavery hasn't gone anywhere. When we see the country in a depression (not recession), but continuing wars of imperialism in Afghanistan and other places, we know that slavery hasn't gone anywhere.

The fact is we are all slaves to the system and the different levels of exploitation separated by race mainly serve the purpose of keeping the MASSES of us divided. These contradictions of race and class must be addressed as scientifically as possible for the purpose of building a Revolutionary Inter-Communal Movement, principally to unify the Left into action. Doing this will allow us to more effectively cause indigestion from within the belly of the beast, and defend each other from continuous repression by the fascist state. The Black Riders Liberation Party has faced tanks, raids, gang enhancement charges, imprisonment, harassment, threatening letters from police chiefs and constant arrests. This has made our Party familiar with this part of the revolutionary process. The Black Panther Party knew this when they formed the National Committee to Combat Fascism, which would later become the Inter-communal Committee to Combat Fascism. And so the BRLP, who are students of the Black Panther Party, believe that this tactic must be dialectically applied to the present day. So we launched the Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee as a vehicle for the people to use to defeat our common enemy, the Kkkapitalist Empire.

Real unity and solidarity recognize and overcome real differences. For the revolution to survive and accomplish its goal of destroying a common enemy, unity and solidarity must be based on addressing difference in an egalitarian manner, thereby countering the divide and conquer tactics of the Fascist state. To not do so, while claiming to want unity, is Liberalism. Moreover, to do so in a way that does not redirect the source of any conflict over difference back to the system is unprincipled and counterproductive.

"...We must understand their presence (white racists) as an effect of the system. It is the system that must be crushed, for it continues to manufacture new and deeper contradictions of both class and race. Once it is destroyed, we may address the problems of racism at an even more basic level. But we must also combat racism while we are in the process of destroying the system." – George Jackson, ***Blood in My Eye.***

In building an Inter-communal Solidarity Committee it is essential that we develop what George Jackson calls "Unitary Conduct." This will happen through us collectively focusing on issues common to the Afrikan, Native American, Mexicano/indigenous, Asian and anti-imperialist white masses. The main obstacle preventing this necessary step in Revolutionary development is the inability or unwillingness of the "white Left" to challenge the racial component of class warfare. Basically, not enough white people are working to abolish racism and white supremacy.

In 1969 at the United Front Against Fascism Conference in Berkeley, CA, the Black Panther Party and many allied communities and organizations helped form the National Committee to Combat Fascism, which would later become the Inter-Communal Committee to Combat Fascism. This initiative developed partly out of Cec and Saul Levinson, two white men from Berkeley who worked with and supported the Berkeley branch of the Black Panther Party. This was done to build support from the white Left for the BPP, suffering under COINTELPRO's Fascist repression. The ICCF also served as a screening mechanism for the BPP itself and its allied organizations of other races. This helped the BPP weed out the reactionary elements. The ICCF's history ranges from shoot-outs in Detroit and New Orleans, the framing of the Omaha 2 (Ed Poindexter and Mondo We Langa fka Bryan Rice), free medical treatment for Walla Walla penitentiary inmates by the Seattle, WA chapter, and more. It gives many examples of and reasons for needing "Unitary Conduct" in fighting against fascism.

When analyzing this historical development in hindsight we can infer that, if the Black Panther Party had implemented the ICCF as a screening organization earlier, prior to the rapid growth that followed the state capital Mulford Bill action, the BPP might have prevented some of the heavy infiltration and reactionary elements that helped crush the Party. Assata Shakur talks in her book of how easily after joining the BPP she had access to records and many other important files relatively quickly. The widespread interest was spreading beyond the original Panthers' control. Everyone wanted to be a Panther, some people without permission from the BPP. For example in 1967 in Washington, DC when a group called the "Black Defenders" led by Robert Rippey had been calling themselves Panthers, they were told by the BPP headquarters that there were certain qualifications you had to meet to be an officially recognized BPP chapter. They were later refused recognition by the BPP for refusing to work with white people and lacking serious political education. Had the ICCF already been set up, the BPP might not have had to wait until 1970 to have an official chapter in Washington DC (Chocolate City).

Today's climate for the radical Left has some similarities to that of the 60's and 70's when the BPP and its allies under repressive attack from the Fascist state came together to form an inter-communal front against the state. The BRLP and many other community organizations and anti-kkkapitalist movements have been feeling the legal and military arm of the State because of our efforts to destroy it. There have been systemic attacks on our party including Pig Chief Beck's slanderous letter attempting to keep our General under a GPS tracking device (on parole). We've seen numerous raids and infiltration attempts launched against the Occupy movement, and many other covert and overt attacks against anti-kkkapitalist forces in this country and around the world (South Africa, Afghanistan, Palestine, etc.). We have been under attack not only by local occupying armed forces (police) but also by the much more dangerous Homeland Security, the NDAA, etc. which is legalized COINTELPRO. With this understanding, we should see the need not only to intensify our propaganda campaign to expose the repression, but also to build "Unitary Conduct" across ideological lines.

One priority is amnesty for Political Prisoners/Prisoners of War (PP/POW) and defending freedom fighters against the legal and military arm of the state. It is far too easy in these times of division for organizations to justify elitist sectarian behavior under the subjective belief that only they have the correct ideology. Of course one should only practice a theory if one believes it to be true. But we see the marriage of theory and practice not only in the context of when the theory was created but also the present day conditions and purposes to which it can or can't be applied. In other words, a theory should be specific in its ideals but flexible in its adaptability to an environment (conditions). This way it can evolve into the best form of serving the people.

The BRLP, though very critical of the inability or unwillingness of the "white Left" to effectively hold their weight in abolishing racism in the class struggle, we have always pushed for Unitary Conduct. The corporate media, as well as people's assumptions, have allowed for an incorrect understanding of the BRLP's ideology, "Revolutionary African Inter-Communalism." A conflict has arisen with some people's lack of understanding of the "African" component, which is one of the primary dialectical updates from Huey Newton's theory of "Revolutionary Inter-communalism." It is NOT an excuse to hate white people. You can find a more in-depth analysis in "African Inter-communalism I", but in short this development grew out of studying the BPP's COINTELPRO-created beef with Ron Karenga's US organization and other reactionary Cultural Nationalists. By the end of it, the BPP went from drawing a line of demarcation between philosophies to having a bad taste in its mouth for anything that even sounded cultural nationalist. This eventually led to tribalism and Black Panther on Black Panther violence that would factionalize and destroy the ranks.

We agree that "pork-chop cultural nationalism" is counterproductive to revolutionary theory, but such nationalism doesn't have a monopoly on applying Afrikan culture (philosophies and actions) to their theory. Of course if not properly applied, this method can do as much harm as good. If it's not framed into the proper class-war context, it can lead to the belief that eliminating Europeans is all that's necessary for Black people and people of color to be liberated. Or that going "back to Africa" and simply leaving the U.S. prior to dismantling the fascist nervous center here is the answer to ending Black people's problems. This is a reactionary and under-developed analysis. What is true is that for Black people a practical and healthy study of Afrikan culture helps reverse the psychosis of racism and white supremacy which is the main conductor of Black people's self-hatred and inferiority complex. It dispels the myth of white superiority little by little with every new fact learned and brings the Black person coming into consciousness that much more confident in our ability to WIN!

Since this analysis provided here is about winning a WAR for liberation and not about being RIGHT OR WRONG, we must see this (Afrikan Culture) as a natural part of the development for the Black revolutionary. This must happen, not to gloat or to put down others, but to constantly counter the psychosis of post traumatic slave disorder with empirical research and evidence about the culture(s) that were STOLEN from us.

...continued on page 2

UNITARY CONDUCT:
Building the Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee

...Continued from p. 1

Our commitment to practically studying and applying Afrikan culture has put us in the line of fire with people who have yet to analyze and address these contradictions.

"I deny the existence of Black racism outright, by fiat, I deny it. Too much Black blood has flowed between the chasm that separates the races. It's fundamentally unfair to expect the Blackman to differentiate at a glance between the various kinds of white racists. What apologists term Black racism is either a healthy defense reflex on the part of the sincere Black partisan who is attempting to deal with the realistic problems of survival and elevation, or the racism of the government stooge goons." George Jackson, ***Blood in My Eye.***

The class struggle within the belly of the beast here will never show enough "Unitary Conduct" to ACTUALLY take state power until the issue of race is addressed scientifically by both People of Color and European descendants from their respective experience with it. This means white people taking responsibility for not only supporting the autonomous efforts by people of color to destroy racism, but also working to destroy racism within themselves and the ENTIRE white community. This also means people of color not only pointing out racist behavior but providing the best alternatives to support our self-determined struggle without co-opting it. This is one of the things we plan to do with the Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee.

Another issue that is pivotal in building "unitary conduct" and advancing the Left is the Inter-Communal working relationship between people of color. The divide and conquer tactic of kkkapitalism has kept 4/5th's of the world's population disconnected from one of its main POWER sources, unity. Like crabs in a barrel we have been led to believe that our differences could not be addressed in an egalitarian and anti-authoritarian manner.

In the 1960s and '70s the Imperialist war in Vietnam was a rallying point for Unitary Conduct. Today because of our neo-colonial white power in Black face, many so-called progressives have not pushed a hard enough line to unify against the imperialist wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, etc. More specifically we have not drawn enough connections between the proxy wars overseas and the proxy war created by the U.S. here between the Black and Brown communities (especially in California). Only when this happens will a larger portion of the white Left have to take notice and fall in line. When the Black, Brown, Red and Yellow communities build stronger ties, the WHOLE LEFT ("white Left" included) will be advancing the struggle. Only when the victims of ALL the kkkapitalist dirty tricks (class AND race) unify, will the example for ALL victims of ruling class exploitation have a pace to march to, that can bring about the results we all need -- VICTORY!

The Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee will provide a mechanism to bridge the gap between ideological and cultural differences to build a united Left capable of defending against and smashing on Fascism. The Committee invites revolutionary-minded people from all communities, seriously committed to revolutionary change, to be a part of the Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee. We are launching initiatives to put such unitary action into practice. These are not service or charitable efforts but campaigns aimed at organizing and empowering the Commune. The Hood Health campaign will focus on healthy food, medical services including free HIV and AIDS testing and more. The Break the Lock prisoner solidarity campaign will provide revolutionary educational literature and access to publication to prisoners and transportation for people whose loved ones are in prison. The George Jackson Freedom School will provide mental, physical and cultural education to school-age youth. We are fighting for amnesty for political prisoners and prisoners of war (PP/POWs); and many other campaigns as well.

The BRLP calls on all organizations and community members dedicated to building a united front to destroy kkkapitalism to join us in building the Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee.

"There must be a collective redirection of the old guard-the factory and union agitator-with the campus activist who can counter the ill-effects of fascism at its training site, and the lumpenproletariat intellectuals who possess revolutionary scientific socialist attitudes to deal with the masses of street people living outside the system. They must work toward developing the unity of the pamphlet and the silenced pistol. Black, brown and white are all victims together. At the end of this massive collective struggle, we will uncover our new man, the unpredictable culmination of the revolutionary process. He will be better equipped to wage the real struggle, the permanent struggle after the revolution- the one for new relationships between men." George Jackson, ***Blood In My Eye.***

Black Power to Black people,
Brown power to Brown people,
Red power to Red people,
Yellow power to Yellow people and
ALL POWER TO ALL PEOPLE
WHO DON'T FEAR FREEDOM!

FREE ED POINDEXTER,
MONDO WE LANGA, LEONARD PELTIER,
AND ALL PP/POWs!
B.R.L.P. MTUMISHI WA WATU
(SERVANT OF THE PEOPLE)

Citations:
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Blood in My Eye-George Jackson
Press release from the Detroit, MI N.C.C.F. October 25, 1970-N.C.C.F. Ministry of Information Detroit, MI
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HOOD Improvement Program HEALTH Organizing Project

We are Hood Health. We are a community deeply affected by the neglect of a society that regards us as a problem to be dealt with, while we value ourselves as leaders in the solution. We are not being heard when we ask for help, so we are not asking anymore. We are demanding justice; we are demanding to be in control of our own health futures and that of our community. Our situation is the result of blatant racism, sexism, greed and exploitation at the highest levels. They poison our food, water, air and soil, destroy our planet and deny us employment and a decent education. Then, when we get sick and attempt to make ourselves well, they suppress and penalize us as though we were the criminals.

We work to change this- and to create collectively a society where life and individuals are valued and respected. We will not stop, we will not be silenced. Hood Health is about improving the health and health awareness of the people who are both shut out and abused by the corporate health-care system. It gives people the knowledge they need to make educated choices regarding their health. We will raise awareness regarding prevention and treatment for HIV/AIDS, high blood pressure, diabetes, and other ailments using alternative and traditional medicine, and develop people's capacity to grow, share and eat healthful foods.

Hood Health empowers people to manage their own care, and challenges health care professionals and providers to unite with the community. We will offer free health screenings for HIV/AIDS, high blood pressure, diabetes, and other general health concerns. Coming off our successful plug-in event on Dec. 1 (World AIDS Day) at the Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research, our short-term goal is to organize a community health fair and forum in March. In addition to screenings, we are planning educational presentations on alternative and traditional health practices, including herbal and natural remedies, issues facing care-givers, and community gardening. We are already helping to build garden boxes, and working with community residents who organize neighbors to harvest and distribute fruit from trees in South LA. We will end with a people's assembly and forum on health issues, that can help us carry out a community canvass and survey to identify the pressing health care needs and issues in South LA, Watts & Compton.

Medium term, we want to develop a free Community Health Clinic. Hood Health puts control over healthcare in the hands of local communities. We will train community healthcare workers and then build a local clinic that can serve the people. Longer term, we are looking towards a People's Hospital, predicated on breaking out of approaches based on charity, or a hierarchical medical system, towards a system based on community empowerment, organizing, and education.

CONTACT US AT: hoodhealth.la@gmail.com

BREAK THE LOCK Prison Communication, Education and Transportation

Break the Lock applies the spirit of the "serve the people" survival programs of the original Black Panther Party for Self Defense to the 21st Century conditions of oppression faced by Black, Brown and other oppressed communities, in which mass incarceration -- the new Jim Crow-- is a key phenomenon.

Mass incarceration and the prison-industrial complex took off in the wake of the COINTELPRO attacks that killed, exiled or imprisoned key freedom fighters of the Black, Chicano-Mexicano, Puerto Rican, indigenous, Asian and European-descent anti-imperialist movements. The long sentences, torture and isolation techniques developed against political prisoners have become extended throughout the prison system. They are being used on a preemptive basis against masses of Black, Brown and other youth, who represent a potential threat of social and political unrest in times of economic deprivation. Mass incarceration has also been used to disrupt families and whole communities. ***Break the Lock*** will help blunt the impact of these state strategies. The **Prisoner Communications project** is archiving and publishing on the Internet prisoner letters to the Black Riders Liberation Party and ***Turning the Tide***. The **Prisoners Revolutionary Education project** provides reading and educational materials and is in the process of digitizing many crucial works from the Black liberation struggle and other critical social, political, historical and economic analysis for subsequent distribution to prisoners. And the **Family Transport to Prisoners (FTP)** project will help incarcerated parents maintain contact with their kids, and family members to keep in communication with incarcerated children, spouses, partners and siblings. This will improve communication for the prisoners, as well as be a mechanism for communities to overcome the conditions the state had imposed and begin to organize for liberation and against the prison-industrial complex.

We have the capacity now in southern CA to begin the preliminary operations of a local Family Transport to Prisoners project, and can build the capacity to expand it to a larger area. Transportation relies on existing vehicles and volunteers and can be targeted at nearby locations including certain facilities of the LA Sheriff's Department, such as Wayside, and juvenile halls or youth correctional facilities. California State Prison-Los Angeles County in Lancaster (CSP-LAC), the women's prison in the Chino Hills/Corona area, and the federal lock-ups in Lompoc, CA, and Adelanto, CA are also practical destinations in this start-up period.

We seek involvement from kindred organizations. We are also oriented toward building a self-sustaining base within the community itself, so that the project is one of empowerment for self-liberation, not a charity operation. The families and prisoners needing transport would also be involved in fundraising, driving, obtaining vehicles, promotion and publicity, and the organizational tasks involved in coordinating the trips among families, prisoners, and volunteers. As the program grows, we look towards arranging transportation to more distant facilities in the Central Valley and North Coast areas of California. Join us!

GEORGE JACKSON FREEDOM SCHOOL After-school Program

The George Jackson Freedom School program will revive the after-school program developed by the Black Riders Liberation Party's survival Programs at Chuco's Justice Center. The goals and objectives of the after-school program are to provide a safe place where youth can learn about themselves and their true position in the world through cultural activities, "edu-tainment" and alternative education. The after-school program will serve the surrounding Black and Brown communities and the students at the Free L.A High school at Chuco's Justice Center. It will develop towards a full summer school program in Los Angeles, where LAUSD no longer provides summer school because of its budget cuts. Longer term, we can build a full-time, year-round, community-based George Jackson Freedom School, with the involvement of students and parents.

While money is funneled out of the education system and put into the prison system, our youth are being left behind and are left vulnerable and susceptible to violence, drugs, boredom, etc. A school-to-prison pipeline faces many Black and Brown youth in particular, who are often targeted at school for punishment and criminalization. The George Jackson Freedom Summer after-school program would help keep our youth off the streets and out of the jails through the development of self-empowerment and the critical analysis of our current social-political situation. We think it's necessary to raise awareness about issues that effect our communities and to educate our youth about their own cultures and histories, which are usually absent in the current educational system. The knowledge we share is essential to encourage self-empowerment and mobilization for change. We will also be providing physical education in the form of martial arts self-defense training, and promote an end to tribalism and violence among and between Black and Brown youth.

The after-school program has a Black and Brown cultural curriculum using music, art, activities and games that appeal to urban youth. The cultural curriculum will explore complex issues and topics such as: African and Indigenous culture, the legacy of slavery/colonization, (De) Colonization, Immigration, Pre-colonial Africa, Police Brutality, White supremacy and Racism, violence, gender issues, sexism, Holistic health education, Environmental Racism, Recent Liberation Movements and much more! Through critical engagement we seek to facilitate the development of a new social consciousness that will challenge and inspire youth to become agents of social change.

We welcome parents, students, concerned community people and education system workers who want to develop a relationship of solidarity and engagement with the community to get involved. Call us at 323-289-4457 and ask for Etana Shakur.

PART's Perspective:
On Contradiction and the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***

Turning the Tide receives a huge amount of correspondence from prisoners. That's why the Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee's *Break the Lock* program is so important. ***TTT*** is becoming part of the ICSC, a forward-looking development towards the kind of unification, accountability, and strategic organization that our movements need. As described on page 1, it's an effort to internalize the lessons and challenges provided by comrades struggling under harsh repressive conditions behind the walls, and apply them out here in "minimum security."

A recent prisoner letter asked for clarification about differences between ***Turning the Tide*** and the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM). Technically MIM no longer exists, though small groups of former members still operate. MIM-Prisons, the Maoist Internationalist Ministry of Prisons, maintains an archive and continues to correspond with prisoners and publish material at least on-line. ***TTT*** doesn't engage often in polemics with other movement groups, preferring to focus on the need for self-criticism. We try to build practical unity in struggles around our priorities for undermining the grip of white supremacy, settler colonialism, neo-colonialism and various forms of identification with the oppressor. But in light of building the ICSC in response to the leadership of the Black Riders Liberation Party, it seems worthwhile to explore ***TTT***'s differences with MIM. These views are my own contribution to the struggle, and don't represent a position taken by the ICSC or the BRLP.

MIM's position, briefly, is that because of the super-exploitation of the "Third World," working people inside the US are not part of the proletariat. We are instead a permanent labor aristocracy aligned with the bourgeoisie and supportive of the continued exploitation of others around the world to maintain privileges. MIM sees women and prisoners as elements of US society where there is a prospect of revolutionary development. MIM upholds Mao's doctrine of national liberation by means of a cross-class alliance between workers, peasants and an anti-imperialist "national" bourgeoisie in the Third World as the necessary next step towards socialism and eventually communism. They also believe that 'exploitation' exists only in the realm of commodity production, in which surplus value is produced by the workers and expropriated by the owners. No other workers are proletarians.

These positions are wrong on several counts. They reflect a static and mechanical conception of contradiction. They assume privilege and oppression are absolute phenomena, unchanging and mutually exclusive. In reality, the historical and material nature of dialectical development in social and other matters demonstrates the inter-penetration of opposites and the transformation of phenomena into their own opposite. Privilege and oppression, alienation from and participation in capitalism can and do coexist within the same individual or the same social formation. Privilege exists throughout class society, even among the exploited and oppressed. There is no "perfectly" oppressed and exploited class or sector whose hands are clean. Imagining there is, will mis-identify potential allies as enemies, and real enemies as allies. Revolution is a process of self- and social transformation, not least among the revolutionaries and revolutionary classes. Privilege is a mechanism of social control used by rulers within colonized societies and among exploited workers, not only reserved for settlers or Europeans. The impermanence of such privilege is part of the insoluble contradiction of capitalism and colonialism. This is evidenced in the class fall being experienced by many in the US and Europe; for example the loss of more than 5 years of life expectancy by U.S. "whites" with less than a high school education.

MIM isolates prisons from the social contradictions they enforce. Prisons, the police and courts are part of the settler colonial-capitalist nature of the society they reinforce. Prisons can't be isolated from the social conditions the prisoners emerge from. Prison abolition requires abolishing colonialism and class society. The so-called "carceral state," the application of prison-like methods to daily life, is a new stage of the basic colonial nature of the state and society inside US borders. Colonialism and exploitation exist inside those borders, just as privileges and class domination exist outside them, in many so-called Third World societies aligned with imperialism or competing for advantage within the imperialist system. MIM's view obscures class and colonial contradictions in the U.S.

MIM proposes to adhere going forward to the failed cross-class alliances that helped produce such neo-colonial regimes as South Africa, in which a local elite participates in ownership and exploitation along with multinational corporations, at the expense of the masses and the eco-system. Such theories have been proven as wrong as the notion that the workers of Britain, Germany or France would rise up and build socialism without addressing the colonial underpinnings of capitalism. We have to stand on the shoulders of such failed attempts to see farther and get it right this time.

Finally, MIM's definition of exploitation ignores the exploitation of the planet inherent in capitalist/colonialist industrialism, as well as the exploitation that occurs in unwaged labor, where the concept of surplus value is irrelevant.

The concept of revolutionary inter-communalism attempts to speak to all these flaws, to build a strategy and practice of liberation, social ownership and ecological sustainability in an era when the nation-state (based as it is on an imperial model) has become obsolete.

BLACK RIDERS Liberation Party: New Generation Black Panthers

Despite all the COINTELPRO rumor-mongers, the critics, haters, backsliders, and the racist pig attacks, General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out) has boldly led the Black Riders Liberation Party: New Generation Black Panthers for over 17 years now! Call to see how you can join or help build the Party and its programs:

323-289-4457

Black Riders Liberation Party (BRLP)
P.O. Box 8297
Los Angeles CA 90008

blackriderslp@yahoo.com
www.facebook.com/
BLACKRIDERSLIBERATION PARTY

BLACK RIDERS LIBERATION PARTY FUND

https://www.wepay.com/donations/black-riders-liberation-party-fund

This fund will help us to continue our serve the people programs and provide funds to guard against state repression! The Black Riders Liberation Party is the new generation of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense. The BRLP began in a Y.T.S. gang prison in California when General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out) and other Bloods and Crips began learning about their history of how they were created as up and coming soldiers of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Movement. They learned of this and how the racist United Snakkkes government has been murdering and using Black people since the first Afrikan slaves were brought here. They decided to stop committing genocide against each other and to stand up against white supremacy and kkkapitalist oppression, molding our organization after the first Black revolutionary vanguard in the U.S. the Black Panther Party for Self Defense. A northern California chapter was started in Oakland, CA in 2010 during the struggle for Justice for Oscar Grant and ending police terrorism.

Approximately between 2-4:00 pm on December 15, the van that the BRLP comrades drove up to the Bay Area was stolen by the Oakland Occupying Army. This happened while the van was legally parked on E.12th St. and 23rd Ave. We were attending the Every 36 Hours event at the Eastside Arts Alliance and the comrades from the Los Angeles chapter came to the Bay Area in support of the oakland chapter. The car is registered to a lady friend of a comrade from the LA chapter. When she called the Oakland police to find out why the car was towed, the police told her it was being investigated for gang activity (in Los Angeles mind u)! When the comrades called back inquiring whether or not this was "legal," the police recanted their statement, saying that it was towed because it was parked in the red. This statement was disproved by the 8 comrades who rode in it and witnessed the parking. Due to our security protocols, we always park legally, especially when moving in a larger group than usual. We did not park in the red and it sounds very illegal for police in Oakland to be towing a car allegedly under investigation for "gang activity" in Los Angeles. The comrade who was able to use this car unfortunately had to cash out $450 to get his friend's car back and had to cut the mission short to get home and replace the money the system stole from us in the first place! Our study of dialectics teaches us to take these lumps with a smile, because we know every contradiction is an opportunity to educate and organize the people. As well as a continued sign of the pigs' fear of the threat we represent even at this infantile stage in the development of the struggle.

We will continue to put our bodies on the line to capture the imagination of the "unorganizable" and we will not be slowed down by this poo-butt attempt by the Oakland pigs to neutralize our resources. When u sleep on the floor, how u gone fall outta bed!? Supported only by the people, we have and will continue to work to transform our black commun(e)ity and build intercommunal solidarity with those unafraid to bleed, because of the pools we have already lost.

We will be mobilizing for the next few days to try to raise the $450 the fascist state stole from us. If you are interested in supporting with whatever you can, please do. This might not seem like a lot of money but for those who are pushed out of the job market and refuse to backslide into illegitimate kkkapitalism, this blow hurts. In order to continue this work we must still be able to eat and survive in spite of the pigs' consistent reactionary criminal activity against us. More info on this repressive attack will be posted soon. Salute and gratitude to the comrades Earl Black and Jessica Citlali Ruiz of the National Brown Berets for providing last minute transportation until we could get the van free!

If you are willing to donate to help us replace the money stolen with whatever kind of support, monetary or whatever means available to you, please email servethapeople@gmail.com or call Comrade Shango at 925 752 1215.

He Who Does Not Fear the Death of a Thousand Cuts Will Unseat the Emperor!

All Power To The People Who Don't Fear Freedom!

Greek Fascists Exposed:
Golden Dawn Duped, Outed by Anti-Racist Action

by South Side Chicago ARA

Contrary to recent international news, Greece's neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn is NOT setting up shop in Chicago. We tricked them. Their vaunted Chicago expansion was in fact an Anti-Racist Action intelligence operation. We are releasing some of the fruits of that operation now.

This release is in three parts:

1. As a claim of a small victory in our ongoing struggle against fascism, racism, and anti-immigrant hatred.
2. To release documentation on leaders, members, and supporters of Golden Dawn in North America, Greece, and wherever else they may be hiding.
3. To call for others to flood the Golden Dawn Headquarters and New York branch in an effort not only to destroy Golden Dawn's ability to grow, but to destroy the credibility of anyone who might want to sincerely help them.

Over the past two and a half months, Anti-Racist Action has been involved in a quiet campaign to stop the nationalist organization from expanding in North America. One of our goals, which we achieved with great success, was to gain intelligence on members of New York's Golden Dawn chapter, their supporters, and members within the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York who might be sympathetic to their views.

We chose Chicago as a fictitious base for our operation because of its strong antifascist presence and the massive Greek population affected by the diaspora in and around the city. To us, it seemed highly probable that this may be one of the next major battlegrounds between Golden Dawn and anti-fascists in the US, and we wanted to lay claim before they could.

One of the main ways to halt any nazi organization from expanding, is by causing them to doubt any networking request they may receive from abroad. For this, we need your help. Here's what we did, and what you can do, too, to stop them.

The first step was rather easy. Because we'd been watching the white nationalist website Stormfront for it since its inception, we knew that there were several members who were sympathetic to, even envious of, Golden Dawn's approach to neo-Nazism. Several of these members were of Greek descent, and some resided in Greece. We assumed that someone had to know something. It was merely a matter of picking the slow antelope from the herd.

After a dozen or so posts, we gained trust from Panos8814, a member who had posted a translation of the Golden Dawn manifesto. We offered to help with future translations, and he gave us a contact to Patreus, another member, who was more connected with the organization in Greece. Patreus and Panos8814 divulged important information without ever meeting face to face, to an anonymous person with a four day old account. This is a major fail for Golden Dawn.

Emmanouil Lallas (AKA Lallas Emmanouil, Lallas Emmanuel)

Joseph P Jordan (AKA Boseph Bordan)

Patreus told us that he would keep us updated on any important news regarding Golden Dawn in the United States. Panos8814 and Patreus both encouraged us to contact the organization through the main website, and Panos gave us step-by-step instructions on what to say and who to contact. This exposed their security methods and people in Greece to us as well. Patreus mentioned that the International chapters function autonomously from the main Greek organization, but that it still needed to go through Greece's Golden Dawn.

We told Golden Dawn that we intended to start a chapter in Chicago and wanted help with the protocol on how do to that correctly. Within days, we had an email from Golden Dawn headquarters.

In our first email from Golden Dawn, we were told to contact Emmanouil Lallas, controller of New York Golden Dawn. We were given a Facebook account, email address, and phone number. Through his Facebook, we found that Lallas was friends with Demetrios Demetrios, the third vice president of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York, though not with any of the other members of the board. After a couple web searches, we found that he had spoken at a workshop put on by the Federation in May 2012.

Over time Golden Dawn gave us critical information, which we used to locate its membership in the United States. Some of their membership is listed below. Feel free to discuss current events and race relations with them via phone, email, fax and in person. We hope that if we can flood Golden Dawn with fictitious chapter requests, they won't know whom to trust.

New York Golden Dawn:
Emmanouil Lallas (AKA Lallas Emmanouil, Lallas Emmanuel)
Controller of New York Golden Dawn
2264 43rd St. Apt. 2R
Astoria, NY 11105
(646) 267-4643
Works at: Function Enhancing Physical Therapy
HPS Medical Supply Store
3276 31st St.
Astoria, NY 11106
Listed as "doctor" on medical provider sites, but does not have a medical provider license. (also pictured here, and here)
http://profileengine.com/people/lallase/lallas.emmanouil
https://www.facebook.com/lallase
http://www.myspace.com/lallase/

Joseph P Jordan (AKA Boseph Bordan)
Second in Command of New York Golden Dawn

PACK THE LAS VEGAS COURTROOM NOV. 1, 2013 IN SUPPORT OF
DAN SHERSTY, LIN 'SPIT' NEWBORN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Monday, October 15, 2012, the seventh anniversary of the anti-NSM riots in Toledo, OH, was the last day for replies to preauthorization motion responses in the cases against Melissa Hack, Ross Hack, and Leland Jones. All three were arrested in connection with the July 1998 murder of Anti-Racist Action members Daniel Shersty and Lin "Spit" Newborn. This month is important for us in Anti-Racist Action (ARA) because it reminds of us our past victories as well as those we've lost.

In February, the Hacks and Leland Jones were indicted in Las Vegas. These three individuals comprise the second wave of arrests in connection with these murders. Melissa Hack is the ex-girlfriend of John "Polar Bear" Butler, tried and convicted in 2001 for his part in the murders, and the sister of Ross Hack. These names are not new to us. We've been aware of the Hack siblings involvement in the murder of our friends since 1998. So has the LVPD.

ARA is calling for antifa to pack the courtroom in support of Daniel Shersty and Lin "Spit" Newborn and their families at the trial of Melissa Hack, Ross Hack, and Leland Jones on November 1, 2013 in Las Vegas. Although we as a network do not seek justice via the cops or the courts, our presence there is important not only to let the Shersty and Newborn families know that their sons did not die in vain, but to show that antifascists are still here and will continue to be here fighting racism, fascism, and bigotry until we win.

The indictment of Melissa Hack, Ross Hack, and Leland Jones can be found here, and a portion of the complex case schedule can be found here:

http://nv.findacase.com/research/wfrmDocViewer.aspx/xq/fac.20120416_0002038.DNV.htm/qx

Anti-Racist Action (ARA) Compilation CD

The ARA Network is pleased to announce it is putting together a compilation disc of supporting musicians to raise money for our war chest, which will be used to support members and comrades with legal fees. This is a call out for bands, rappers, poets, anyone who wants to support ARA, and get their music and message out there, to submit their tracks.

EMAIL to ask questions and/or submit mp3 directly to aracompilationdisc@gmail.com

Requirements:

One track per band, submitted with lyrics, along with contact information, and your logo, if you have one.

BANDS GET:

TWO copies of the cd, free
YOU can buy copies at a discounted rate in order for yourselves to promote and sell.
ALL their information that is desired to be listed in the cd and the website

With this disc, we hope to further a culture of anti-fascism, while advancing our ability to support those arrested for struggling against fascism. They will be available to buy online, and at anti-racist events, like ROCK AGAINST RACISM.

http://antiracistaction.org/

Support the Tinley Park 5
http://tinleyparkfive.wordpress.com/

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1) WE GO WHERE THEY GO: Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the street!

2) WE DON'T RELY ON THE COPS OR THE COURTS TO DO OUR WORK FOR US: This doesn't mean we never go to court, but the cops uphold white supremacy and the status quo. They attack us and everyone that resists oppression. We must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.

3) NON-SECTARIAN DEFENSE OF OTHER ANTI-FASCISTS: In ARA, we have lots of different groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.

4) We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. ARA intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest and the most oppressed people. We want a free classless society. **WE INTEND TO WIN!**

Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror
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ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK contact info:
www.antiracistaction.org info@antiracistaction.org

TURNING THE TIDE IS TURNING TWENTY-FIVE! CELEBRATE WITH US!

Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research and Education is turning 25 this year, and its editor/publisher, Michael Novick will be turning 66 on February 9, so we are having a fundraiser for the paper on that date, a Saturday night -- live music and DJs from 6 PM until ? at Jewel's Catch One dance club, 4067 W. Pico Blvd. in Los Angeles, with Olmeca, Aztlan Underground, Guerrilla Rap Nation and others.

Save the date for a mash-up of funk, punk, ska, oldies, rap, spoken word, a statement about ***Turning the Tide*** from Mumia Abu-Jamal and a few other surprises. See the save the date flyer on the back cover of this issue. For more information or to get involved in the planning, call 323-901-4269 or email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

You can also use that email address to paypal donations to TTT. ***Turning The Tide*** goes out free to more than 1500 prisoners around California and the US and is a unique and valuable communications medium, published for a quarter-century without partisan subsidies, government funds, corporate underwriting or advertising, or foundation grants. Help keep it going strong into the future!

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL ON "TURNING THE TIDE"

We live in a nation now where over 90% of the national media overtly supported a ruinous, dreadful, imperial war based on a lie. The question isn't why you should support "Turning the Tide," but, why do you still support the corporate media? They waved flags, beat the drums, played martial music, and swam in the funk of fake fear, to propel the nation to a mad war in Iraq, all to please their corporate shareholders, to sell their products, and to continue praying at the imperial altar of oil.

What was "***Turning the Tide***" doing at the time? They were on the ground, printing the pieces that gave us insight into the grass roots, and giving rare voice to those sane amongst us who damned the war as a naked imperial exercise.

They turned their lenses on the prisons, the streets, the neighborhoods, and communities of Blacks, Browns, anti-imperialist whites, and gave a truer, deeper portrait of the world – the world in protest against the racist, violent Empire.

So, support "***Turning the Tide***," for when you do so, you support yourself, and the movements that are paving a way into the future. Thank you.

Ona Move! Long Live John Africa! From imprisoned nation, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

[Sound of prison door slamming.--These commentaries are recorded by Noelle Hanrahan of Prison Radio.]

HELP NEEDED NOW FOR ELDER FREEMAN

Your help is needed for an honorable brother – Elder Freeman: Priest, Community activist in Northern and Southern California. His organizational memberships include: Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, African Orthodox Church, Universal Negro Improvement Association, African Communities League and All of Us or None (formerly-incarcerated and convicted people's civil rights movement). Elder Freeman is battling cancer, and $8000 is needed ASAP for him and a companion to travel to Cuba for necessary medical care in January 2013. Please make donations to an account at Bank of America, routing number 131000358, account number 0556270135. Thank you. The ***Black Riders Liberation Party*** and the ***Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee*** will be co-hosting fundraising events along with Black Panther Party elders in Los Angeles and the Bay Area.

Original L.A. Black Panther Elder Freeman

We rely entirely on subscriptions and reader donations to publish. We've been coming out for 25 years, distributing thousands of copies to prisoners, anti-racists and other concerned people without partisan subsidy, government funds or corporate grants. We depend entirely on you, the reader, to keep printing hard-hitting anti-racist, anti-colonialist analysis. **If you like what you're reading –**

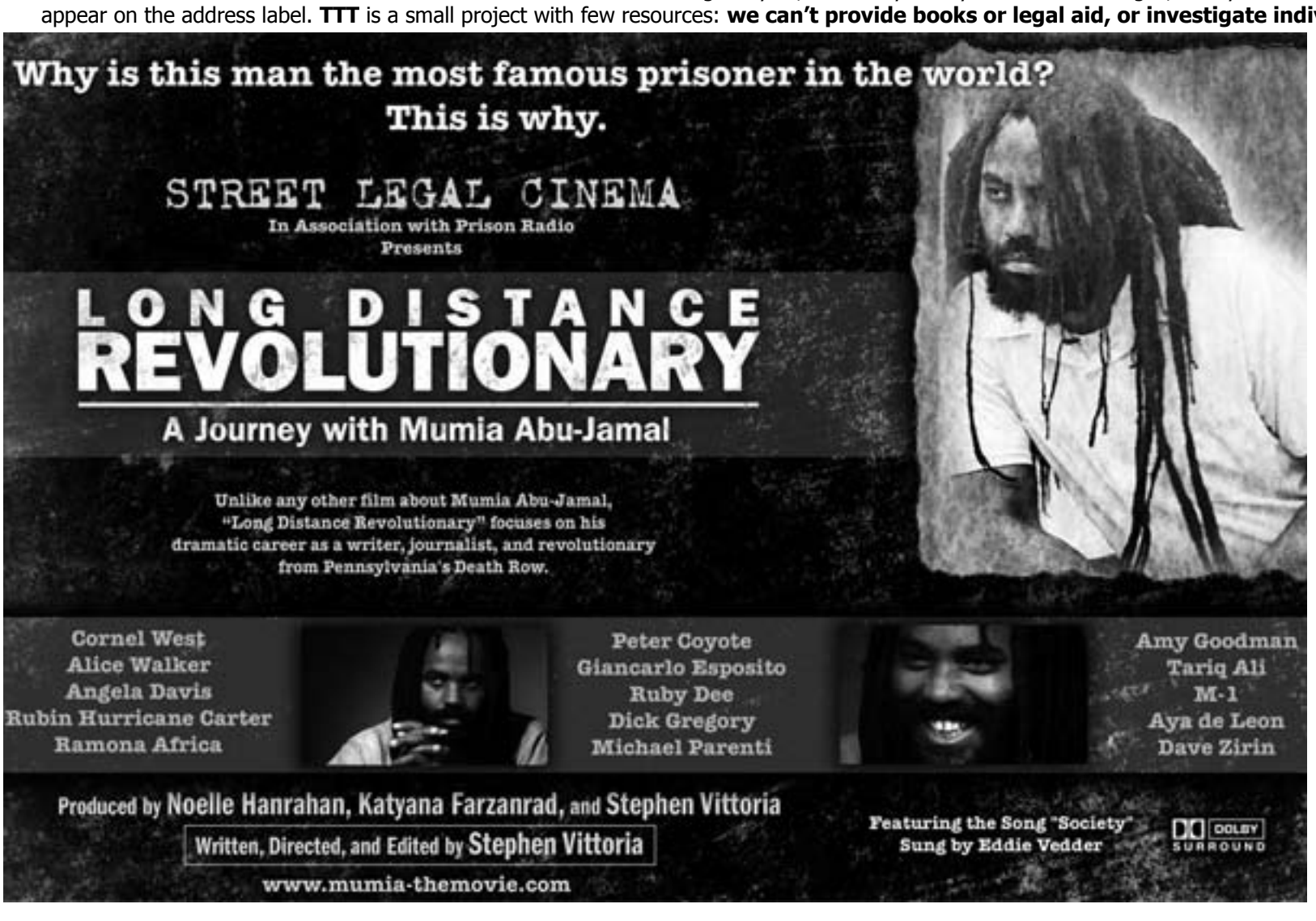
Don't delay -- Subscribe today:

$16 individual/$26 institutional or international annual subscription (for 4 quarterly issues)No checks to Turning the Tide, please! Can't process them!
Send cash or a US POSTAL MONEY ORDER to Boxholder to: Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____Email: _____ Phone: _____

ATTENTION PRISON SUBSCRIBERS! Please write us at least once during the year, and every time your address changes, with your EXACT address as it should appear on the address label. **TTT** is a small project with few resources: **we can't provide books or legal aid, or investigate individuals' innocence**.



This new film about MUMIA ABU-JAMAL premieres in theaters on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1 at the CINEMA VILLAGE in NEW YORK.

Other theaters will follow.

LONG DISTANCE REVOLUTIONARY WILL OPEN IN LOS ANGELES IN FEBRUARY.

To hear Mumia Abu-Jamal's commentaries and prisoner essays from around the country go to www.prisonradio.org. Join the email list or get the podcast. Prison Radio PO Box 411074, SF CA 41141

On Nov. 11, Polish Independence Day, right-wing ultra-nationalists rioted in Warsaw and elsewhere. Neo-fascists pelted police with firecrackers and rocks as they tried to make their way through the cordons towards where anti-fascists had their gathering. On Nov. 20, Polish authorities arrested a radical nationalist who planned to blow up parliament and had links to the right-wing extremist who murdered dozens of people in Norway last year. ***TTT*** received the following report and analysis from a comrade with Polish roots currently in the US. I found it especially interesting as my father came to the US as a teen in the '30s from Bialystok, Poland, where his relatives later perished in a Jewish ghetto uprising against the Nazis.—Ed

The Rebirth of Radical Nationalism: Welcome back to the '30s

by Eric Arthur Blair (Antifa Ska)

Warsaw - The past days following the Nationalist riots of November 11, 2012 have been a time of solemn reflection for those of us in Poland and our friends watching around the world. We have awoken to a new reality, not in a hyperbolic or theoretical sense, but to a practical new reality of fascist terror on the streets of our cities, escalating exponentially. With burned out apartments, hospitalized anti-fascists, murders, mass nationalist marches through our cities, and now the formation of nationalist militias, and a call to overthrow the republic, we're asking ourselves, just as our grandparents asked 80 years ago, 'how could this be happening in our times?'

Historical Context

The fall of the "communist" dictatorships in the 1990's led to a breeding ground for new political ideologies arising in former one-party states. Where once history was given to the people through Stalinist propaganda, the war over historical truth has returned, and nationalists have done everything in their power to re-envision history to their own sinister benefit. Today we see the trend all across the forgotten side of Europe. In Dresden, the nationalists organize marches to commemorate the victims of Allied bombings; In Hungary, pre-war nationalists (and Nazi allies) are glorified as the true defenders of freedom; In Ukraine, monuments are erected for the terrorist organization UPA and their leaders granted 'national hero' status. We are living in extremely uncertain times, and the black and white narrative offered up by the nationalists is resonating with a generation suffering the realities of the modern economy.

In Poland the nationalists have spent the last 20 years co-opting soccer fan clubs in an attempt to take-over working class culture and identity. This is a tactic we've seen all over Europe, and the BBC's documentary criticizing fascist violence in Polish and Ukrainian soccer came as a shock to those outside the region considering a holiday trip to the EURO 2012 tournament. But nationalist culture and ideas are no longer just found around football stadiums. They are creeping more and more into everyday life, into mainstream media, in church sermons, even on university campuses.

The radical nationalists have traded in military garb and football club politics, for suits-and-ties and coalition building. Establishing alliances across the right, including with major media publications, they have gone from Nov. 11 marches of 300 nazi-skinheads in 2009 to 20,000 'patriots' in 2012 ready to 'overthrow the system'. But we are not only talking about propaganda and marches, we are also confronting a new era of organized and coordinated violence unseen in years. Their strategy being two-fold, to clean up the public image of extreme politics (claiming the narrative of eternal victims, 'true patriots' condemned by an oppressive system), while at the same time, creating a culture of violence just below the surface of their organizing. Their strategy culminating this November 11.

We have sat by in horror as gangs of nationalists terrorized Polish cities, and street fighting that accompanied the main march was simply written off by nationalists and their mass of conspiratorial sympathizers as, "provoked by undercover police." The completely incompetent Polish media began to echo ONR's claims, matching the long, pitiful history of 'National victimhood' which now seems to be the major myth of November 11. Last year's fairytale of 'foreign antifascists coming to fight Polish patriots and demolish Warsaw' has been replaced by a new paranoid theory of 'undercover police in ski-masks provoking riots in Warsaw.' The reality remains to be recognized by the mass of society, Polish nationalist violence is spiking and Polish antifascists, immigrants, and LGBT are experiencing it firsthand.

A short summary of the coordinated Polish Nationalist violence in 2012

The wave of violence has not only occurred in recent days. Over the past year we've seen one murder and dozens if not hundreds of attacks around the country. Easter night in Białystok: A gang of nationalists screaming they would 'cleanse the city of leftists and faggots' murdered one student and stabbed several others. They stalked the streets for hours, while the police failed to intervene. In Poznań, a children's art festival hosted by the Rozbrat squat was attacked by groups of men with stones. Opole, a small Kurdish restaurant, was attacked by thugs with bats and knives. Police ignored repeated complaints from the workers about nationalist threats. In Piła, 2 youths hanging up posters for a punk concert were beaten by 5 men, calling them dirty faggots. In Warsaw, there were repeated attacks on local labor activists following worker solidarity demonstrations; attacks on the LGBT-friendly bar "Brave New World" during nationalist marches; threats against left activists following public demonstrations. In Lublin, an attack took place on the cultural center Tektura Collective and weeks later on 'Free Tibet' demonstrators in the town square. In Sopot, a young man was attacked at a train station for 'wearing colorful pants,' accused of being gay and beaten. In Wrocław, attacks on the equality march by the nationalist "March of Balaclavas", on the CRK anarchist community center, the local synagogue, etc. A Cuban-Polish soccer player threatened and his motorcycle vandalized with the words "white power" and "KKK." Attacks on cemeteries, synagogues, monuments, symbols of multiculturalism, cafes, social centers, squats, the list goes on, all in the last 11 months, in towns across the country. And then there is what has happened on November 11.

November 11 was a day the nationalists are triumphing as a great victory; the beginning of a new national front and the beginning of the end of the Polish republic.

The nationalist seizure of power and formation of Nationalist Militias

"We are now living in a new reality – and hardly anyone seems to realize it," the Antifascist coalition of November 11 has declared. Besides the nationalist riots that rocked Warsaw on the evening of November 11, a range of attacks took place that day to commemorate "National Independence Day." The Nationalists have announced a new militant strategy against democracy. ONR (Obóz Narodowo Radykalny, the National Radical Camp) and Młodzież Wszechpolska (All Polish Youth) MW, the groups responsible for organizing the march through Warsaw have now officially united and subsequently called for the overthrow of the Republic and the formation of paramilitary groups into a so-called "National Guard." The call sounds strikingly similar to Hitler's Brown-shirts who patrolled German cities and broke opposition groups in the 1920's and 30's. Mussolini had similar backing with his "Black-shirts," who took over Rome marching street by street routing political enemies. This is the reality we are talking about: fascist militias coming to a town near you.

We will see how this call is heeded by the Brownshirts of ONR and MW, but if November 11 is any indication, they're already here. In Wrocław on Sunday night, directly following the "Patriots March" a group of one hundred men forcibly entered the Wagenburg social center and began severely beating people into unconsciousness, then fled the scene. One man was rushed to the hospital near death. He is currently in critical but stable condition following a number of operations. Cars, houses, and the building itself were also smashed and destroyed. On Facebook, the leader of NOP (another major nationalist organization) congratulated the attackers and cheered for more. The four men arrested following the attack have since been released without charges.

In Białystok, the apartment of a Chechen family was firebombed. Also in Białystok, the mayor has now openly said he would like to lobby for ONR. In Warsaw the offices of non-profits were attacked, including those of Lambda as well as attacks on individuals around the city and mass media outlets. In Wieluń a cemetery was vandalized with ONR graffiti. In Ostrołęka, tombs of unknown Russian soldiers were destroyed. These are just some of the attacks we are aware of thus far.

This is an obvious campaign of terror across the country, and we are seeing similar campaigns organized in neighboring countries by neo-fascist groups, some of whom attended Sunday's March in Warsaw, including Italian, Spanish, Hungarian, Swedish, and Norwegian nationalists. We remember that Anders Breivik, the nationalist who terrorized Oslo in 2011 killing 77 people, cited Polish nationalists as a great "inspiration."

Apathetic Public, Incompetent Police

With a wave of violence and calls for the overthrow of the government, you may ask yourself, where is Polish society and the state in all of this? As mentioned above, it seems as if history is indeed repeating itself. As happened in pre-Fascist Italy and Spain, the state is arming itself not to protect against a fascist revolution, but for repressing left-wing, anarchist, and antifascist organizations that pose more of a threat to economic elites than any fascist takeover could. Furthermore, a culture of apathy and silence has been built in a society that is struggling more to deal with the questions of poverty and identity than the question of Politics. In a system that creates a surplus population of disillusioned poor, it's no wonder the state would rather see them fighting for "the nation" instead of fighting for justice. A measurement of just how little the Polish police and government understand what is happening can be seen by their approach to November 11: harassing antifascists this past week asking 'if people were planning on any fighting for November 11?' Of course the antifascist march passed through Warsaw without a hint of violence, while riots raged through the city center in a nationalist show of force, and yet the police spotlight remains against antifascist activists.

And the media? Nationalist and populist ideas are abound in mainstream discourse, ONR has capitalized on the media's uncritical approach to propagate their rhetoric. Even the president, in a populist photo-op, was seen laying wreaths this Independence Day to the Nationalist icon Roman Dmowski. Civil organizations are now open allies with ONR and MW due in large part to the lack of media scrutiny of them or their extreme politics. And any press that does take an active role in criticism? Labeled communist, elitist or Jewish, and attacked in a right-wing media boycott, "I won't read, I won't watch."

And so with all sides covered, it looks to be open season for a new nationalism to spring forth from the ashes of the failed economic experiments of post-communism. The Nationalists are claiming to have the "third road" neither communist nor capitalist, but as they will find, it will be a road riddled with antifascist blockades.

How much longer can we tolerate the growing threat of a nationalist revolution? With nationalist propaganda thriving, and the clever 'coalition building' paying off, the shadow of fascism is steadily creeping over this country. As we have seen in the past 2 years the nationalists "third road" will be one paved in our blood. We cannot wait any longer. It's now or never.

For the memory of our grandparents who liberated the death camps and brought the fascist monster to its knees, let us never again return to that place! No compromise in the struggle against modern fascism ¡No pasarán! **Reprint and translate freely.**

PACK THE COURTROOM JANUARY 4th AT 11AM FOR THE TINLEY PARK 5

The Tinley Park Five, accused of breaking up a white nationalist gathering of Nazi criminals and their sympathizers, were in court Dec. 17 to respond to an offer reached in the "402" (pretrial) conference. A continuance was issued on that, and the court will proceed with a previous motion to suppress the arrests of May 19, 2012. This motion will be heard on Jan 4, 2013 at 11 am at the Bridgeview Courthouse. Our comrades are requesting that supporters and sympathizers try to make it to this court date if they can, so the court can see the defendants are supported by the community that the prosecution claims our friends are a threat to.

Chicago Anarchist Black Cross will be posting updates via this facebook group, which has location details: https://www.facebook.com/events/179475548863446/

"IRONIC" RACISM: A RANT

by John Vargas

I don't do jokes about rape. I don't do jokes about gays. I don't do jokes that are racist. As a comic, I'm boring I guess...

People often ask me, when they find out I do comedy (after they get over their shock), what kind of comedy do I do? Frankly, I don't know. Usually I just answer, "I do jokes about what pisses me off, and what I think is funny. Often at the same time!" Then I'm asked, "Where do you do comedy?" This one always has me flummoxed. "Wherever they let me, I guess."

Lot of talk lately about what can and can't be said, or should and shouldn't be said. You're not allowed to say you don't think women are funny. You're not allowed to crack a rape joke. You're not allowed to make a joke about slavery. Even if you're Chris Rock. I myself, have been accused of misogyny in my jokes. And for the fucking stupid, worthless, life of me, I have yet to find anything hinting at misogyny. Oh, I do jokes about women, because I'm heterosexual and women have been a part of my life (from time to time), but mostly, I think my jokes as they pertain to "the fairer sex" are more about constantly being mystified by what they say and do. I'm sure women can say the same about us horrible men.

I'm not saying I don't have slightly chauvinistic thoughts, I grew up in this patriarchal society as much as you did. More so. I grew up Mexican. My people are some sexist fucks sometimes. But, I fought against it, and now believe that all women are at least equal to men and deserve every single opportunity, pay raise, promotion, and job that any man can do. But (and here's where my chauvinism runs rampant) I find myself attracted to women that are "girly." Sorry. I like a girl that wears make up, dresses up, fixes her hair. Please don't put me on a cattle car! But am I a misogynist? I guess you can make that decision. Call me what you like. We're probably not friends, and I probably couldn't fucking care less what you think. My friends and family know who I am, and if you asked me, you would too.

Quick history lesson about me: I've seen the inside of a cop's shotgun more than once, when I ran with communists, and wanted to liberate ALL of the working class (including women). One cop even tried to break both my arms by bending them behind my back. I think he was making a wish. Probably two.

I am not ironic about what I believe. I actually believe these crazy things I spew into microphones at people, sometimes a dozen people at a time! But I don't think I get irony completely. It's kinda the tool of the younger comic. To say something, and not actually mean it, is somewhat alien to me. Sarcasm? My generation honed that fucker to razor sharpness. Yeah, like I wouldn't get sarcasm! Irony, I'm still a little mystified by it. Maybe irony is a woman…

In the shit storm that has been brewing for quite a while now over what can you say and what can you not say, I find it troubling that few of the younger ilk of comic talks about racism. You know, the "funny" ironic kind.

That's why I don't do jokes that are derogatory towards women, gays, and folks of other races. Because I really do care about people. Fuck you, it's true! I also don't believe it's okay to step into someone else's yard. This is what I mean: if you're Mexican and want to do jokes about the foibles of Mexicans, fine. If you're a woman, gay, Asian, black, Inuit and choose to do jokes almost exclusively making fun of that group to which you belong, then by all means, do so, it's your yard in which to play. Personally, I'll think you're boring and lazy as a comic, but why should you care? What you say is between you and your respective group. I hope they're as understanding as you believe they are (no I don't). When I have a problem, is when you decide to step into someone else's yard and make fun of another group that, not only do you not belong, but so obviously, do not understand.

I've done a lot of comedy shows, mostly in the "alternative" scene (and I fucking hate that label), and quite often I've had to sit and wait for my turn while a good looking young white person does jokes that would fit better in the 30s when blacks and Jews were not even allowed into these establishments. But they don't mean it, right? Because they went to college. Because they're using racism against itself. Does that even make sense? Yeah. Because when your house is flooding due to the hurricane destroying the levee and your government is taking its sweet ass time to rescue you, the thing that makes the most sense to do is turn on all the faucets, right?

To sit there and hear the pretty white guy talk about Jose the gardener or Rosa the maid, is supremely annoying to me. Because, there's a chance, albeit slight, that my mother did indeed clean his family's house when he was a spoiled little shit of a child, whose parents assured him that everything he did was the greatest thing ever done. Also, my aunt's name is Rosa. She drove a lunch truck when only us Mexicans were crazy enough to eat at them. I mean a real lunch truck, where she made the best tacos and breakfast sandwiches you've never had. A real one. Not a bourgie ice cream, grilled cheese or caviar "lunch truck." A real one that was a craze among us before they got all weirdo and became a craze among the youth. You're welcome.

These are the people I think of when I hear these supremely lame jokes. And yet, I'm not allowed to punch him in the stomach.

"Ironic racism" is huge on stage. It has been for years now, and has no hint of dying. It is these guys who get booked over and over again at all the same shows that have long ago shunned me. Which is fine. I'm not for everybody, I don't know how to appeal to the closet racist. Thankfully, I never will.

In the end, say what you want. I don't care how hurtful or disgusting your viewpoint is, say it. I will only say this about "ironic racism:" Do you know what the difference is between an "ironic" racist and an actual racist? Nothing. You're a racist. Admit that you're a racist and go see if Carlos Mencia needs an opener.

Get more John Vargas at the benefit show for TTT on Feb.9 and at www.IHateJohnVargas.com

A Tale of two Cities: The Mass Shooting in Connecticut

Excerpted from a blog post by Jan Tucker

I've spent some time traveling in Connecticut and have some friends there. The massacre carried out in Sandy Hook is certainly a national tragedy. But in comparison to what goes on every day in the state capital, Hartford, one has to ask -- Why isn't every day life in ghettoes and barrios a topic of constant national attention?

Newtown, and Sandy Hook within it, are opulent geographical areas. According to Wikipedia, in Newtown, by 2010 Census figures: "The racial makeup of the town was 95.14% White, 1.75% Black or African American, 0.14% Native American, 1.40% Asian, 0.04% Pacific Islander, 0.64% from other races, and 0.89% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 2.36% of the population." The median income for a household in the town was about $100,000, $37,786 per capita. About 2.2% of families were below the poverty line.

According to the New York Daily News, the Sandy Hills shooter, Adam "Lanza was living with his devoted mother, Nancy, in the family's 4-bedroom, 3,100-sq.-ft. estate…. Nancy divorced Adam's father, Peter, in 2008. Peter Lanza, now a VP of taxes for GE Energy Financial Services, agreed to annual alimony payments that started at $240,000 and would have reached $298,800 in 2015."

Now take Connecticut's state capital, Hartford. By Wikipedia: "The racial makeup of the city was 29.8% white, 38.7% African American or black, 0.6% Native American, 2.8% Asian, 0% Pacific Islander, 23.9 from other races, and 4.2% from two or more races. 43.4% of the population were Hispanic or Latino, chiefly of Puerto Rican origin. With 30% below the poverty line, Hartford's rate is second in the US only to Brownsville, TX. Per capita income for the city was $13,428.

A Hartford blogger on crime writes poignantly about day to day conditions: http://hartfordcrimestoppers.wordpress.com/tag/slums-of-hartford/

"I lived in Hartford for many years. My advice to anyone wanting to travel here is to stay away. I lived off of Farmington Avenue in a building called The Willoughby. Back then it was apartments, but now it is condominiums. The area was bad back then but is much worse now, drug dealers breaking into the building, hookers doing tricks on the steps inside. I don't understand why the police are not out in full force cleaning up these areas. My advice to you, if you decide to visit, take pepper spray with you."–Woman, Resident of Hartford for 37 years, Age 58, May 15, 2012

The 2012 projections for crime in Hartford are: Aggravated Assault 987, Arson 48, Burglary 852, Forcible Rape 46, Larceny and Theft 3,389, Motor Vehicle Theft 720, Murder and Manslaughter 30, Robbery 461, Crime Rate (Total Incidents) 6,450; Property Crime 4,965; Violent Crime 1,523. In 2010, Hartford ranked 19th in the US crime rankings. It had the second highest crime rate in Connecticut, behind New Haven.

So the question we need to ask, is why does the US routinely ignore the crime rates that oppress the poor most of all and get horrified when crime affects the upper crust of society, intrigues the media and gets the attention of government?

What causes incidents like this? According to former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, who spoke of the incident on Fox News, the First Amendment's separation of church and state appears to be the problem:

NEIL CAVUTO (HOST): You know, inevitably people ask after tragedies like this, how could God let this happen?

HUCKABEE: Well, you know, it's an interesting thing. We ask why there is violence in our schools, but we've systematically removed God from our schools. Should we be so surprised that schools would become a place of carnage because we've made it a place where we don't want to talk about eternity, life, what responsibility means, accountability? That we're not just going to have to be accountable to the police, if they catch us. But one day, we will stand before a Holy God in judgment. If we don't believe that, then we don't fear that.

Say what?

So there you have the questions we need to answer.

Does America begin a debate on the poverty and social oppression that breeds day-to-day violence?

Does it legislate a "solution" based upon an aberrant occurrence in a place where violence "isn't supposed to take place," where the per capita income is well above that of the average American?

Do we accept that the rest of us are "supposed" to be subjected to it?

Or do we get down on our hands and knees and pray to god for forgiveness of the sin of secular education?

Hopefully not the latter.

http://janbtucker.com/blog

Inter-Communal Solidarity Comm.

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Culver City CA 90232-1055

First Class Postage

ANTI-RACIST ACTIONS:
Calendar of Up-Coming Activities

Wed., March 20, Communiy Control of Police meeting, Occupy the Hood L.A. Action Assembly, 7 PM, Location TBA facebook.com/groups/OccupyTheHoodLosAngeles/

Thursday, March 21 7 PM Women of Power on the Power of Women
KPFK Women's History Event featuring LaaLaa Shakur of BRLP and others
Jewel's Catch One, 4067 W Pico Blvd. Los Angeles CA (near Crenshaw).

Tuesday March 26 5 PM Planning meeting for Russell Maroon Shoatz event
1905 Rodeo Road, L.A. with Matt Meyer, national co-coordinator of Maroon tour
7 PM: "We Have Not Been Moved: Resisting Racism & Militarism in 21st Century"
Book event at Eso Won Books, 4331 Degnan Blvd, Los Angeles, CA.

Saturday, March 30, National Mobilization against the Ku Klux Klan, Memphis TN
Also, 6:30 PM Party for John Johnson of ***Change-Links***, 3916 Sepulveda, Culver City

Sunday, April 7, 9 AM, Zapata March for Legalization & Social Revolution
from 2208 E. 1st St., ELA to Mission & Main, Lincoln Heights

Sunday, April 14, 10 AM "Marvin Jackson Breakfast"
So. Cal. chapter of Black Panther Party for Self-Defense and Black Panther Party,
at Aunt Rosa Lee's Mississippi Soul Food,
2781 S. Western Ave., Los Angeles CA 90018. For info: Freeman, 323-294-8320

Saturday, April 20, 5 PM Jericho Amnesty Movement Los Angeles chapter meeting
So. Cal. Library for Social Studies, 6120 S. Vermont, L.A. (every 3rd Saturday)

May 1 March for Immigrant Rights - Peoples' Power Not Corporate Personhood!
Internationa Workers' Day

Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education

TURNING THE TIDE

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DEFEND MOTHER EARTH!DEFEAT THE EMPIRE!

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Fight Back Against Austerity, Inequality, and Racism

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***

If you listen to the radio, you've probably heard the ear-piercing signal that checks the Emergency Alert System. "This is only a test," a recorded voice assures us. "In the event of an actual emergency, you would have received further instructions." In much the same way, the recently imposed "sequester" of federal funding and expenditures on both domestic and military spending is "only a test." Behind the finger pointing and spinning about who's to blame, commentators have been open about the fact that the sequester is a probe, to see how much pain the "American people" will sit still for. Unless there's outrage, more cuts are sure to follow. Liberals worry the sequester may stall the recovery. They don't get that this is exactly the point. It's no coincidence it took effect just as hiring finally began to increase. In the current economy, corporations are **threatened** by rising employment, which might result in increased labor costs. No surprise the stock market hit a new high after the sequester – the market typically goes **up** when unemployment increases.

Polls show about 38% blame the House Republicans and 30% blame Obama. Of course, they're both right. The "sequester" is a mutually-adopted stratagem by the Democrats and Republicans in collusion, to impose austerity under the guise of "partisan gridlock." Their hope is that the resulting sense of futility will turn people off to the extent that independent, direct political action against their corporate masters will be undermined. We should take the sequester as a challenge and opportunity to re-energize both mass protest and community-based economic and political alternatives.

Occupy proclaimed that housing, education and health care are human rights. In response, via the backdoor to austerity called the "sequester," Obama and Congress have eliminated $1.9 billion in low-income rental subsidies, affecting 125,000 people. They have cut funding at the Department of Agriculture, eliminating rental assistance for another 10,000 low-income rural people. Emergency shelters for 100,000 homeless people will be shut. Education is also a target. $715 million is cut from Title I, which serves a million+ students in poverty, and another $400 million from Head Start, which funds preschool for poor kids. They're also slicing funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). They're reducing benefits to 3.8 million long-term unemployed by up to 9.4%. Of course, the sequester cuts the military too, but such reductions were inevitable in the wake of draw-downs from Iraq and Afghanistan and the turn towards robot warfare with drones under Obama. That's why the Republicans didn't blink about allowing the sequester to take effect.

If we're in a "recovery," why are such draconian measures needed?

Economist Immanuel Saez recently found ALL the economic gains between 2009 and 2011 (the last year for which data were available) went to the richest 1% in the U.S. In response, stocks are booming. The Dow Jones Industrial Average recently rose above 14,270 -- completely erasing its loss between 2007 and 2009, setting a new record high. Corporate earnings have doubled since 2000, **because** the real median wage is now 8% **lower** than it was then. Profits are subsidized further by taxpayers (mostly individuals – corporate taxes, as a percent of total taxes, have plummeted). Facebook, for example, had profits of over $1.1 billion in 2012, but the company is expected to pay no income tax. In fact, Facebook will receive net tax refunds totaling $429 million, because they get tax deductions on executive stock options that are exercised.

Meanwhile unemployment and union busting reduce the bargaining power of most workers -- keeping wages low. Stimulus under Obama meant mostly tax cuts rather than public works, and the "jobs" component mostly allowed states and cities to keep the cops, firefighters and teachers they already had. Even such limited measures have now been rejected in favor of austerity. Meanwhile, low interest rates by the Fed have not resulted in job-creating investments. They just pushed investors into the stock market because government bond yields are so low.

Such profits disguise the reality that the rate of profit inevitably falls under monopoly capitalism, because of the ever-larger amounts of human labor embedded in "capital," and the ever-increasing costs of energy production as sources become harder to find and extract. Increased profits reflect an increase in exploitation, immiseration and environmental destruction, particularly globally. Hundreds of millions of formerly unwaged workers, Third World women, are drawn into capitalist production, and the ranks of the "reserve army of labor," the unemployed and lumpen, swell within the industrialized countries. Profits are also made possible by "bailouts," corporate welfare, and the privatization of social wealth.

So why have the "American people" been sitting still for this? Repression has played a big role, breaking up the Occupy encampments and targeting militants, scaring others away. But at root, the question of privilege and racism is still central. For too many, the color line is still more important than the line between the 99% and the 1%. Unless we can break the grip of identification with the oppressor, and internalization of the Empire, we can't fight back effectively.

The facts are clear. The basis of inequality is racism, inextricable from capitalism within the US and globally. Brandeis University's Institute on Assets and Social Policy recently released the results of a 25-year study. They followed 1,700 working-class households selected at random from a nationwide sample. From 1984-2009, the wealth gap in "net worth" between black and white families tripled. In "constant" dollars, adjusted for inflation, the gap went from $84,000 at the beginning of the study to $236,500 at the end. The median net worth for whites in the study grew from $90,851 in 1984 to $265,000 in 2009. The median for African Americans went from $5,781 to $28,500 (barely 1/3 of white families' starting point in 1984). Tatjana Meschede, research director for IASP, concluded that, "There's a big overlap between economics and race," according to the Jackson Free Press. Unspoken is that since 2009, including the depths of the financial and economic bust and the anemic jobless "recovery," the gap has worsened. More here:
http://iasp.brandeis.edu/pdfs/Author/shapiro-thomas-m/racialwealthgapbrief.pdf

Blacks and Latinos were the victims of predatory high-interest lending - not its perpetrators – and then suffered the most from foreclosures. Minnesota civil rights groups just released a report called "The Wall Street Wrecking Ball: What Foreclosures Are Costing Minnesotans and What We Can Do About It," which notes that "racial disparities in sub-prime …lending have been well documented." Because home equity constitutes a larger proportion of their wealth, median wealth fell by 66% among Hispanic households, and 53% among black households, compared to a 16% drop among white households. The report notes that "the median wealth of white households is now 20 times that of black households and 18 times that of Hispanic…s. These ratios are … twice as high as … existed before the onset of the housing crisis and recession."

This is reinforced by ongoing employment discrimination. Congress recently reported that, "With a jobless rate of 13.8% in January 2013, black workers are more likely to be unemployed than workers of other races and ethnicities." Studies show that formerly incarcerated white men are likelier to receive a job offer than a Black male with no record. The criminal injustice system clearly operates on a racist, colonial basis, disproportionately arresting and imprisoning Black and Brown women and men.

Unless these realities of racism and domestic colonialism are addressed head on, efforts at "progressive" or anti-corporate political action against the sequester will gain no traction. They will not be able to overcome the "fear factor" engendered by the wave of state repression that greeted Occupy. Capitalism is not "color blind," and we can't be either. The way to build real unity is on an anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist basis. This entails a break with the "lesser-evil" approach that traps people in the deadly embrace of the Democrats. Obama has deported more people than any president in history. Obama's actual economic policies have been ruinous for Black people. Obama embraces "free trade," the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the trajectory of military encirclement of China. Obama is not a captive of Empire, he is its front-man and helmsman.

The antidote to Obama is Black liberation, inter-communal solidarity, and anti-colonial, anti-capitalist struggle. Embracing true solidarity and the leadership of liberation forces from communities of color, communities of resistance in the ghettoes, barrios, reservations, and prisons, is necessary if we are to counter the stratagems of the empire.

25th Anniversary Year Subscription Campaign for "Turning the Tide"

The first issue of "***Turning the Tide***" was produced in October 1988, a little over a year after the launch of People Against Racist Terror, now Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles (ARA-LA/PART). That makes 2013 our 25th anniversary year. Not content to rest on our laurels as one of the longest-lasting grassroots anti-fascist and anti-racist publications, TTT is growing and developing this year, launched by a very successful fundraiser party on Feb. 9th, editor Michael Novick's 66th birthday. Held at Jewel's Catch One, the party drew about 250 people, with musical performances by Aztlan Underground, Lindsey Cristofani, and Leon Mobley and friends, among others, amazing cakes and food from Food Not Bombs and Large Marge Catering, comedy by John Vargas, presentations by Stephen Vittoria, film-maker of "Long Distance Revolutionary: A Journey with Mumia Abu-Jamal," and an audio by Mumia himself, and other festivities. After expenses, mostly for publicity and production costs for t-shirts and tote bags, we raised more than enough money to cover the printing and distribution costs of this issue. We also cemented the existence of a solid crew of contributors and formed an editorial board for "***Turning the Tide***" going forward. The revenue and input will no doubt be reflected in improved quality and accessibility of the journal, already manifest in a new website, http://tideturning.org, that dynamically brings the content into the 21st Century.

Phase two of our development plan is a subscription drive to put the paper on firmer financial footing on an on-going basis. To mark the 25th year of publication, we are seeking 250 new and renewed subscriptions to "***Turning the Tide***." These will subsidize the increasingly costly effort to mail the paper in to 1500+ prisoners around the US, over 500 here in California alone. If you are reading these words and are not a current subscriber, please subscribe today. ***TTT*** is produced without partisan subsidies, government funds, corporate underwriting or advertising, or foundation support. It's a labor of love, but – freedom ain't free. It costs money to print, mail, and otherwise distribute the paper. We are in the process of seeking non-profit status for the Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee, under whose auspices ***Turning the Tide*** will be published going forward, but that's also a costly process. It will pay off in the long term in substantially-reduced mailing costs (unless Congress succeeds in destroying the US Postal Service). But in the interim, reader subscriptions and donations are the basis for continued publication and distribution of the paper. Fill out and send in the subscription form in this issue with your payment, or go on-line and subscribe via paypal to antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com or wepay to "Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee."

Phase three, rounding out the year down to the actual anniversary date will be a fall gala, a dinner and awards show. This will include a special 25th anniversary tribute book featuring endorsements and advertisements and material from the 25-year history of "***Turning the Tide***." We will have submission forms for this commemorative book and more information about the dinner in the next and upcoming issues of the paper.

Don't delay -- Subscribe today:

$16 individual/$26 institutional or international annual subscription (for 4 quarterly issues). If this sub drive is successful we'll restore bi-monthly publication, and you'll get 6 issues for the price of four.

Checks payable to Anti-Racist Action, please! We **can't** process checks to "***Turning the Tide***"

Fill out and send to: Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Special Offer for the 25th Anniversary campaign: A second sub for a friend, only $14. A 3rd, another $12. Fourth and further gifts $10 ea.

Anti-Klan Protest in Memphis TN, March 30, 2013

The Ku Klux Klan plans a rally in Memphis, TN on March 30, to protest the renaming of a park that was named after Nathan Bedford Forrest. Forrest was the first grand wizard of the Klan and a Confederate general in the Civil War whose troops massacred hundreds of slaves. The Klan has filed a permit with the City of Memphis to hold a march and rally on March 30 at the Shelby County Courthouse. "It's not going to be 20 or 30," one Klan leader threatened. "It's going to be thousands of Klansmen from the whole United States coming to Memphis." Reports indicate that various white supremacists and neo-nazis, including the NSM and boneheads are planning to join the KKK.

In response, a multiracial coalition of activists from across Tennessee and around the US will join Memphis opponents of racism in mass protest against the Klan. "This is 2013, not 1913. The KKK is a white terrorist organization whose fear-mongering tactics will no longer be tolerated," said JoNina Ervin, the acting chair of the Memphis Black Autonomy Federation (MBAF), a local social justice group that created the anti-Klan coalition. Hundreds are expected to participate in the protest led by the Ida B. Wells Coalition Against Racism and Police Brutality. "It is a disgrace that Memphis officials took so long to rename Forrest Park," Ervin said. "Most big cities in the south changed the names of parks and monuments named after Confederate generals years ago." Forrest Park was renamed Health Sciences Park.

The coalition was formed when the NAACP advocated 'ignoring' the Klansmen. "The president of the Memphis NAACP and the head of the local chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) shook hands this morning on Channel 3, agreeing to 'ignore' the Klan on March 30." Ervin said. "Rev. Keith Norman, president of the local NAACP, is a paid consultant of the Memphis Police Department, which is why the NAACP has not said a word about the 13 people the cops have killed since [the beginning of] last year. The SCV is a white supremacist organization, and it is a disgrace that the NAACP would collaborate with them."

The Memphis Black Autonomy Federation and the Ida B. Wells Coalition Against Racism and Police Brutality have a different response: an anti-Klan protest with all people of conscience invited. They will meet in the morning at City Hall Plaza, 125 N Main Street, Memphis, TN 38103, approximately a block and a half from where the KKK will be gathering. They will then proceed to confront the Klan gathering. In the afternoon they will gather at Health Sciences Park, 799 Madison Ave, Memphis, TN, 38103 (main crossroads at the park are Union and Walnut).

In response to their organizing efforts, the Hamilton County Sheriff's department in Chattanooga, has issued a fugitive summons for Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, who co-chairs Memphis Black Autonomy Federation, which has organized several protests against police brutality and put out the national call. The summons stems from court costs the county claims that Lorenzo owes in connection with a 12-year-old misdemeanor conviction. Damon McGee, Mikail Musa Muhammad (Ralph P. Mitchell), and Lorenzo, the Chattanooga Three, were convicted in January 2001, for disrupting a City Council meeting in 1998 where they went to protest against police brutality. At the time, Chattanooga had the highest number of people killed by police in US cities with populations under 200,000. Damon has also received a "fugitive" summons. Mikail died in 2006. There is no statute of limitations on the collection of court fees and fines, and Damon and Lorenzo could be arrested at any time.

What You Can Do To Help:

1. Contact Criminal Court Judge Rebecca Stern, who presided over the Chattanooga 3 trial. Email, call or fax her and demand that she withdraw the "fugitive" summonses issued for Lorenzo Ervin and Damon McGee. Send email using the URL below.

http://www.hamiltontn.gov/EmailForm.aspx

Call Stern at (423) 209-7500 or send a fax to her at (423) 209-7501 .

2. Protest to Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond, who enforces summonses at the direction of the courts.

http://www.hcsheriff.gov/feedback/feedback.php

Call the sheriff at (423) 209-7000, or send a fax to (423) 209-7001.

3. Write a letter to the Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct (see link below), complaining about Judge Rebecca Stern's 12-year harassment of Lorenzo Ervin and Damon McGee in the Chattanooga 3 case.

http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/sites/default/files/docs/updated_judicial__complaint_form_ia_final_save_enabled_06282012.pdf

If you live in or near Memphis, contact:

The Ida B. Wells Coalition Against Racism and Police Brutality c/o Black Autonomy Copwatch, PO Box 16382, Memphis, TN 38186-0382 organize.the.hood@gmail.com (901)674-8430. If you would like to coordinate ride-shares from other parts of the country, contact alice.notok@gmail.com Organizers have no funding. If you can send money to help with printing and travel costs, they request that you send it via PayPal to organize.the.hood@gmail.com The FaceBook event page is named "Anti-Klan Demonstration in Memphis, Tennessee, USA!!" https://www.facebook.com/events/238167059653339/

Anti-Racist Organizing in Calgary, Alberta, Canada

By Jason Devine

In April 2012 Kyle McKee, leader of Blood and Honour/Combat 18 (B&H/C-18) in Alberta, Canada, and two other members of his gang were arrested in Edmonton for carrying out what police described as a "racially-motivated attack" on two males. Kyle's house in Calgary was raided and police found numerous weapons, such as shotguns, rifles, machetes, etc.

The attack itself had occurred in the evening of March 24. Earlier in the day, Kyle and 15-20 other members and supporters of B&H/C-18 had attempted to hold a "White Pride World Wide" rally, before they were shut down in a matter of minutes by a counter-rally of over 200 anti-racists. Not only was their pathetic march prevented, but the boneheads were also chased into Edmonton's underground transit tunnels, before police stepped in to save them.

The sight of neo-Nazi boneheads being utterly outnumbered and prevented from freely rallying in Alberta isn't a new one. What was new was that the confrontation took place that year in Edmonton and not farther south in Calgary.

The fact is that ever since 2006 the struggle against neo-Nazi organizing has been centered in Calgary, when Kyle McKee and others first organized the Aryan Guard (AG). At the forefront of that struggle has been Anti-Racist Action Calgary.

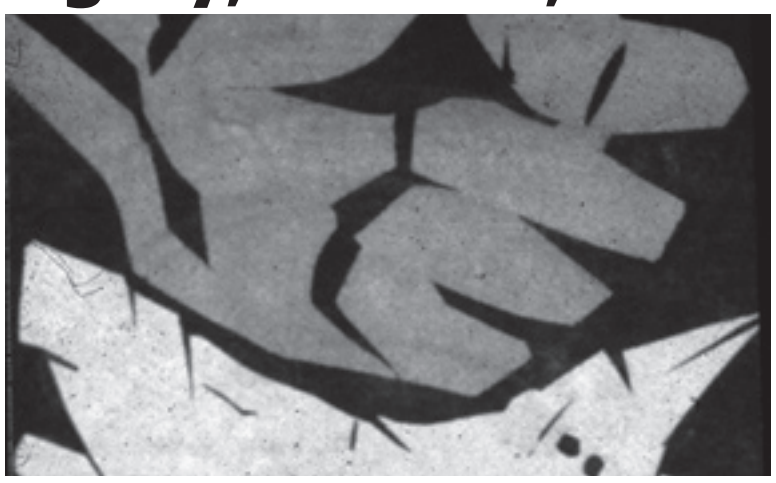
The main focus of ARA Calgary's organizing had been on intel-gathering and then outing as many boneheads as possible. Working closely with allies at the Anti-Racist Canada blog, the personal information of known AG members was posted on the Internet and also printed as posters and distributed in neighborhoods where boneheads where known to be living.

This tactic was used to great effect in an earlier campaign in 2004 when members of ARA Calgary traveled to Red Deer and postered systematically within a four-block radius of the house of Glenn Bahr. Bahr was the leader of Western Canada For Us (WCFU), a neo-Nazi organization in Alberta, members of which later helped set up the AG. As a result of the posters Bahr was kicked out of his house and lost his job upon returning from a white supremacist meeting. Within a few days he moved up north to Edmonton and two months later his house was raided by the Edmonton Police Services Hate Crimes division. Bahr was later charged and convicted under Canada's hate crimes legislation for willfully promoting hatred. Another major tactic used by ARA Calgary was holding public rallies and marches. Ever since 2007 the AG made it known that they wanted to start holding annual "White Pride World-Wide" marches in Calgary. Their specific goal was to march to City Hall and demonstrate. Following from ARA's First Point of Unity, "We go where they go," ARA Calgary counter-demonstrated.

Every year since 2007 we have demonstrated at City Hall, even when boneheads have been unable to march, thus creating a public anti-racist, anti-imperialist tradition in this most right-wing of Canadian cities. This year will be ARA Calgary's 6th annual march and it will be focused on highlighting the growth of public displays of white supremacist attitudes and language in response to the Idle No More movement.

The AG did not march freely in 2008: they were chased down the street and the police revealed their role as guardians of this neo-Nazi gang. In 2009, in spite of police protection and the violence of members of the police against anti-racist activists, the AG were utterly blocked and prevented from reaching City Hall. On March 21, 2008 the largest, explicit anti-racist rally and march in Calgary's history was held. That was repeated and exceeded in 2009 with the numbers of those attending far surpassing the previous year, to over 600 people.

In 2010 as a result of Kyle McKee being jailed for a failed bombing attempt against a rival split off from the AG, the Western European Bloodlines (WEB), the AG's "White Pride



World Wide" march was cancelled. In 2011, as a result of uttering threats with baseball bat against me (also asking if I needed "another home invasion") Kyle was jailed. This did not prevent the AG from holding their rally, but with him in jail, with mounting bad press, and anti-racists outnumbering boneheads 20 to 1, their "march" was poorly attended and they did not reach City Hall. They were, however, chased as in previous years until they got away on public transit provided by the Calgary police.

In June 2011 two leading members of WEB, Robert Reitmeier and Tyler Sturrup, were arrested and charged with the vicious beating and murder of 47 year-old Mark Mariani, a man who was just walking to his car in an alleyway. On March 4, Sturrup finally pled guilty; he was sentenced to life with no chance of parole for 10 years. Reitmeier still has to face the court this fall. With this, the other WEB members have either left the movement, or more simply gone underground. Either way WEB is finished in Calgary.

As for the AG, despite its name change to B&H/C-18, its frequent attempts at both putting up posters (which we and other in the community immediately tore down and/or postered over), and holding marches, it failed to achieve any sort of success and after 2009 suffered a continual loss of membership. In response to our successful organizing Kyle McKee decided to shift his focus to Edmonton, while still remaining their base of operations in Calgary. However, as a result of the failed bonehead march in Edmonton and Kyle's subsequent arrest Blood and Honour/Combat 18 in Alberta is organizationally dead.

This is not to say that boneheads are no longer here. They are, but they are keeping it hidden and are not actively organizing. The organized neo-Nazi movement in Alberta is in total decline and for the present moment non-existent. However, as capitalism constantly produces racism and as white supremacy is a fundamental aspect of the Canadian imperialist state, the soil upon which neo-Nazism grows remains. Sooner or later they will return in some guise and when they do we'll be waiting.

With the immediate focus of ARA Calgary's activities gone, members have been busy building solidarity for political prisoners in Canada, specifically working to build support for the Justice for Mahjoub Network. The latter is a network dedicated to fighting the racist and Islamophobic Security Certificate system. A security certificate is part of immigration law that allows the Canadian state to arrest non-citizens without charge on the basis of their profile, detain them indefinitely and/or deport them.

More recently members of ARA Calgary have taken the initiative in forming the group Settlers in Support of Indigenous Rights & Idle No More – Calgary with allied activists in the city. Besides attending and promoting Idle No More actions, this new group has been focused on combating racism among white settlers and promoting anti-imperialism. The global struggle continues and there is no shortage of work to be done. Solidarity!

Vampire Holiday: The Passing of Chavez

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

The death of Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez has brought out the malicious and carnal glee of the corporate press, who report breathlessly not only of his mortal passing, but an end to the Bolivarian Revolution. They are the voices of their vampire Wall Street bosses, who delight in owning more of the Earth, no matter how much misery they may cause for millions.

In fact, Chavez was beloved by the vast majority of Venezuelans, poor, Indian and African, who saw in him their rising in the world. Upon his death, seven nations declared days of mourning in his honored memory – Cuba, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Iran. Ecuador's president, Rafael Correa, decreed three days of mourning, and called Chavez an inspiration of the revolutionary transformation sweeping throughout Latin America. Argentina's president, Cristina Kirschner, also ordered three days of mourning to mark the passing of Chavez.

For millions of Latin Americans, Chavez brought dignity to them by refusing to play the puppet for "El Norte," the U.S. Empire. He helped found ALBA, the international Latin American bank, and became, in Fidel Castro's retirement, a son of his spirit, who learned from his mentor how to resist the Empire.

How many of us know that CITGO provided low-cost heating oil to over 1-1/2 million Americans, and that CITGO, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Venezuelan Oil, did so with Chavez's blessing?

When he took to the rostrum of the U.N., and said, "The Devil was here yesterday," and that the place smelled of sulfur, he was a global hit – except for U.S. puppets. The "devil" was U.S. imperialism, still a dangerous, drone-invading, bomb-dropping threat to millions world-wide.

Chavez, on the other hand, was loved and admired by millions, both in and out of Venezuela.

Viva Hugo Chavez!

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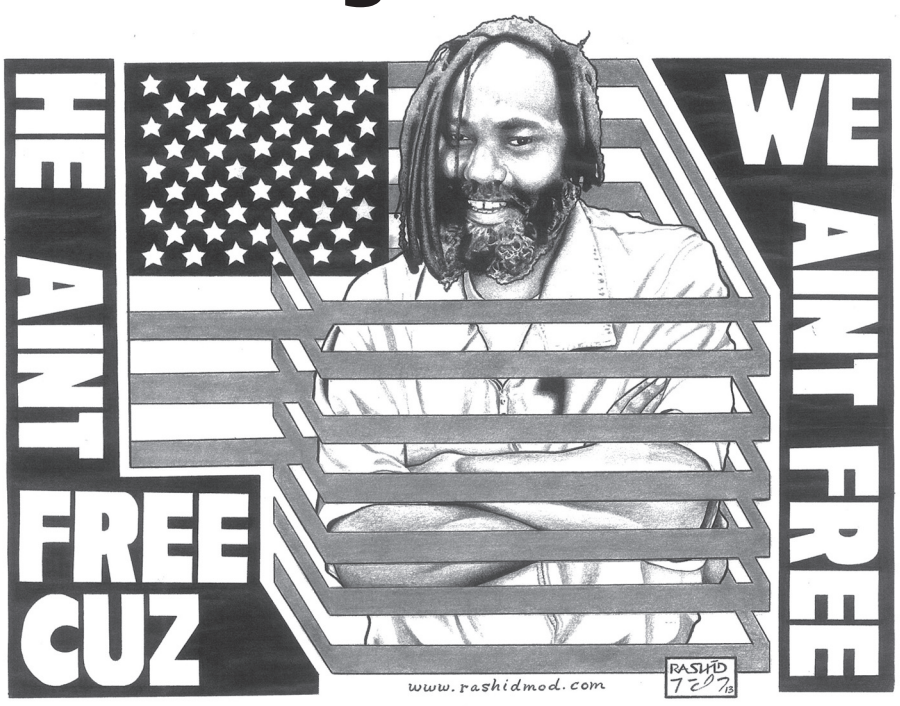

Get your copy of the new book by Mumia and Marc Lamont Hill "The Classroom and The Cell: Conversations on Black Life in America" at http://twpbooks.com/catalog/theclassroomandthecell-p-208.html Please make a contribution to help free Mumia. Donations to the grassroots work will go to both International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal and the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC).
www.freemumia.com Please mail donations/ checks to: Free Mumia Abu Jamal Coalition, PO Box 16, New York, NY 10030 (Checks payable to: FMAJC/IFCO)
Send our brotha some LOVE and LIGHT at:

Mumia Abu-Jamal AM 8335
SCI-Mahanoy, 301 Morea Rd., Frackville, PA. 17932

Upcoming showings of
Long Distance Revolutionary: A Journey with Mumia Abu-Jamal

Don't miss this brilliant, moving documentary, which situates Mumia's life and struggle in a flow of history over decades, from his childhood through his years on Death Row.

Santa Monica, CA — Opens March 16
Dormont, PA — March 21-24, 2013
Montpelier, VT — March 22-31, 2013
Toledo, OH — April 2, 2013
Norfolk, VA — April 3, 2013

And a critical premiere of the film in Philadelphia. Order tickets now to make sure the theater maintains its commitment to the booking in the face of inevitable pressure by the Fraternal Order of Police.

Philadelphia, PA — May 3, 2013

Support Philadelphia's 'Native Son' – Mumia Abu-Jamal – as the story of his life comes to downtown Philly in the acclaimed new film, MUMIA: Long Distance Revolutionary. The film plays at the Landmark Ritz at the Bourse from May 3rd through May 9th, four showtimes a day, and we are calling on all supporters of Mumia to help us SELL OUT EVERY SHOW. We MUST send a message to the establishment in Philadelphia that Mumia is not a villain but a national treasure. That is exactly what Long Distance Revolutionary shows so beautifully.

We anticipate establishment forces will pressure Landmark to cancel the film – let's head them off at the pass by selling so many tickets now, the Landmark will have no choice but to show this important film. Community leaders on the ground in Philly, such as Pam Africa, have already begun spreading the word and getting people to buy their tickets now. Some dedicated individuals are buying up to 10 tickets right now to either re-sell to friends or distribute for donation.

Even if you're not in Philly, but want to make an impact right at the core of the city that has perpetuated the lies and ongoing injustice against Mumia – then buy tickets online for donation. The filmmakers behind Long Distance Revolutionary will work with organizers in Philly to get these tickets into the hands of students, church groups and community organizations. This ensures that as many people as possible see this remarkable film AND that Philadelphia hears the message loud and clear: Mumia's life, his voice, his character and commitment to justice are to be celebrated. His struggle for justice is our struggle for justice. (NOTE: When donating, send email confirmations from the theater to info@mumia-themovie.com. For those wishing to buy more than 10 tickets, please contact the filmmakers at the same email address.)

When buying tickets online, please use the following link to select your date and showtime and to purchase your advance tickets. The actual link is far too long to print, but this shortened link will take you there: http://ow.ly/iAQPj

You can book a showing of LDR in your area easily through TUGG. Go to our page on their site and request a screening at a theater near you, then you send that screening date/time to a bunch of folks. If you can get enough people to buy tickets and fill a showing, they will book the film!

http://www.tugg.com/titles/mumia-long-distance-revolutionary

Also, if you know professors or educators who want to screen on a campus or library, let me know. There's an easy booking process with our distributor and a fee.

A Street Legal Cinema Production
Written, Directed, and Edited by Stephen Vittoria
Produced by Stephen Vittoria, Noelle Hanrahan, and Katyana Farzanrad

www.mumia-themovie.com

Youm Al-Ard, Land Day in Southern California

https://www.facebook.com/events/227521314061403/?context=create#!/events/227521314061403/

Youm Al-Ard - Day of The Land - has been marked world-wide yearly since the killing on March 30, 1976 of six Palestinians in Galilee by Israeli troops during peaceful protests over the confiscation of Palestinian lands. The Zionist occupation imposed a curfew effective from 5 PM on March 29, 1976 on the Palestinian villages of Sakhnin, Arraba, Deir Hanna, Tur'an, Tamra, and Kabul after it announced plans to take further thousands of dounams of Palestinian Arab land for "security and settlement purposes." In response Palestinians organized a general strike and protests from Al-Jalil in the north (Galilee) to Al-Naqab in the south on March 30 1976. During the protests, occupation soldiers and police attacked and killed six Palestinians, 3 women and 3 men, wounded 100, and arrested hundreds. Solidarity strikes were also held almost simultaneously in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and in most of the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. Youm al-Ard is particularly significant because it was the first time since the 1948 occupation that Palestinian Arabs in Israel organized a response to Zionist occupation policies as a Palestinian national collective. Palestinians and their supporters throughout the world have marked Youm Al-Ard annually ever since.

EVENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

As part of the annual Youm El-Ard/Day of the Land Activities in Southern California, Al-Awda, The Palestine Right to Return Coalition has organized the following program of events:

Los Angeles: March 29, a Day of the Land Demonstration will be held in Los Angeles. For details, please see https://www.facebook.com/events/269308646535702/

San Diego: March 30, Al-Awda's chapter in San Diego will be presenting the following program starting 5 PM at the Al-Awda Palestine National Center (2720 Loker Avenue West Suite J, Carlsbad CA 92010): A Youm Al-Ard and Spring Bazaar to help raise awareness and support for Al-Awda's work; a screening of the film "Degrees of Incarceration" followed by discussion with one of the film makers, Nidal Al-Azraq from Aida refugee camp. For additional information please email office@al-awda.org or call 760-918-9441

Orange County: March 31, at 11 AM with exact location to be announced, Al-Awda's Los Angeles/Orange County chapter will host a screening of "Degrees of Incarceration" with discussion by Nidal Al-Azraq. This will be followed by presentation by Khayrieh Zubaidi about the current dire situation in Al-Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in Syria. For further information please email mazenalmoukdad@hotmail.com.

Ventura County: March 31, 5 PM at the Arroyo Vista Community Center the Conejo Valley chapter will host a screening of "Degrees of Incarceration" with discussion by Nidal Al-Azraq. This will be followed by presentation by Khayrieh Zubaidi about the current dire situation in Al-Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in Syria. For further information please email amanibarakat@gmail.com or call 805-390-6480 or 805-217-7138.

Federal Bureau of Prisons Bans Media Access to Oscar López Rivera

by Jan Susler

Since the Presidential commutation in 1999 resulted in the release of 11 Puerto Rican political prisoners, the Federal Bureau of Prisons has denied all media requests to interview Oscar López Rivera, despite BOP policy allowing media interviews of prisoners, and in spite of allowing media interviews of other prisoners. Each rejection has used the identical, unsubstantiated excuse that "the interview could jeopardize security and disturb the orderly running of the institution." Media from Puerto Rico and throughout the US have been equally snubbed. The BOP denied requests from *El Nuevo Día*, Puerto Rico's daily newspaper with the largest circulation on the island; WAPA Television, the largest commercial television station on the island; the Bay Area's KPFA Pacifica radio station; and the *Chicago Tribune*.

Ironically, when López, currently housed at the medium security federal prison in Terre Haute, IN, was held at the supermax security federal prisons in Marion, IL and Florence, CO from 1988-1998, as well as in maximum security at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Chicago, 1986-1988, the Bureau of Prisons allowed regular access by various media. Some of the very same media recently denied interviewed him without adverse affect on security or the orderly running of the institution. These included Chicago's NBC affiliate WMAQ; award-winning cable series, Labor Beat, of Chicago's public access network; Denver's widely circulated newspaper, Westword; the *Times of London*; the Pueblo (Colorado) Chieftain; *Mother Jones* magazine; the Associated Press; CNN; CBS; National Public Radio; WKAQ Television of Puerto Rico; etc.

As if the media blackout were not sufficient, the BOP also seems determined to deny other outside access to López. In August 2011, the BOP refused to allow five prominent New York State and City elected officials to meet with López.

There's no question that López is newsworthy — of the many Puerto Rican political prisoners arrested in the '80s for their pro-independence activities, he's the only one still in prison. Having served almost 31 years of a 70-year sentence, he has the dubious distinction of being the longest held political prisoner in Puerto Rico's history. His bid for parole last year, rejected despite broad support from the Puerto Rican community in the US and on the island, was widely covered, including by the *New York Times* and *Chicago Tribune*. When Obama visited Puerto Rico last June, the media and elected officials asked him about pardoning López, and the Puerto Rico media provided extensive coverage of the demonstrations supporting López's release.

The U.S. government ban, preventing López's voice from reaching his people and his supporters, hearkens to bans imposed by other governments and regimes once regarded as anti-democratic. Under the apartheid regime of South Africa, the media weren't allowed to quote banned anti-apartheid organizations or spokespeople, and were forbidden from reporting on prison conditions. At the height of the Irish Republican movement's efforts to end British occupation, the British government augmented an existing ban, prohibiting any broadcast of the voice any pro-Republican proponent. Government leaders articulated support for the ban as "a legitimate weapon for the state to use," in starving the movement "of the oxygen of publicity." Sinn Fein, the main target of the censorship, understood the censorship as a government attempt to silence its anti-occupation campaign. Commentators understood it also prevented the public and the government from fully understanding unfolding events.

The federal prison system, funded by U.S. taxpayers to the tune of $6.8 billion, is a public entity. Transparency is crucial. Given the history of human rights violations in U.S. prisons, including prisons in which López was held for years in conditions of complete isolation amounting to torture, the need for media access is particularly critical.

The US government touts freedom of the press, embodied in the First Amendment, as it purports to set an example to the world. When the US hosted UNESCO World Press Freedom Day in 2011, the State Department declared: "The US values freedom of the press as a key component of democratic governance. Democratic societies are not infallible, but they are accountable, and the exchange of ideas is the foundation for accountable governance. In the U.S. … the press fosters …debate, provides investigative reporting, and serves as a forum to express different points of view, particularly on behalf of those who are marginalized in society." These sentiments are not honored in practice.

Perhaps the most marginalized in society are those behind prison walls. But the isolation of López goes beyond even routine marginalization. The US government, like apartheid South Africa and the British administration occupying the north of Ireland, recognizes who López is politically, and what he represents to his people — hence the ban on media interviews and outside access.

Only strong, vocal public support and a vigilant media and elected officials can ensure that conditions under which the BOP detains López are monitored and exposed, and that the public fully understands the politically punitive length of his sentence and the harsh injustice of his remaining in custody for 31 years.

Learn more about Oscar Lopez Rivera in his own words in "Between Torture and Isolation," available now from PM Press:

https://secure.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=511

Write to him:

Oscar López Rivera #87651-024 FCI Terre Haute, P.O. Box 33 Terre Haute, IN 47808 02863

or contact the National Boricua Human Rights Network at info@boricuahumanrights.org or write to

2739 W Division Street, Chicago, IL 60622.

Black Superman?! A Hero Against Racism for the Hood!

Christopher Dorner woke up the world to the barbaric nature of the racist L.A.P.D and other so-called law enforcement officers that patrol our community like an occupying army in Afghanistan or Iraq. He told the oppressor, I prefer to die on my feet then live on my knees. His courageous actions have shown us that the oppressor is NOT completely bulletproof, and yes, racist pigs do bleed! Contrary to popular petty-bourgeois belief, he did not want his damn corrupt job back. He wanted to be accepted back into the warm embrace of the Black community, after he almost betrayed us by accepting being in the racist police and white supremacist military. He tried to change the scandalous system from the inside, and it betrayed HIM and US as a people! He proved to us (by his actions) that he only joined them to steal the racist white man's killing skills!

Poor oppressed Black people (the lumpen proletariat) all over the country, who have been constant victims of police terrorism, have given him his honor and good name back. Despite what the racist mainstream news media say, he will live on in the hearts and minds of oppressed Black people still struggling to be free from Racism, Capitalism and Imperialism. Black people must unite to serve and defend the Black community.

Even though Chris Dorner supposedly died and has become a martyr, the racist police are still alive and armed to the teeth waiting for a chance to get revenge on ALL Black people. The trigger-happy pigs act like judge, Jury, and executioners. They illegally shot 3 innocent people driving two different trucks in the search for Dorner.

If you read the Internet social media, you will find that Black people in every ghetto are waking up and saying things like:

"Racist Amerika's evil karma has returned…"
"Y'all can dish it out but y'all can't take it…"
"What goes around comes around…"
"Chris Dorner is a little bit of Nat Turner, Geronimo Pratt, and Robert Williams all rolled up into one person. Nat was ruthless, Geronimo was in the military, Robert went on the run…"
"The police should be the ones banned from having guns, they're the biggest **GANG** in Los Angeles…"
"The chickens have really come home to roost…"

Christopher Dorner embarrassed the L.A.P.D when he exposed that the same police involved in the Rodney King beating, Rampart scandal, and May Day beating have all been rewarded with promotions to high rank. That means they are issuing genocidal orders to low-ranking paramilitary officers that work in the streets. Nothing has changed, it has only gotten worse.

The Black Riders declare "… We ride for an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of Black people. We ride because we believe we can end police brutality in our black community by organizing Black self-defense groups dedicated to defending our Black community from racist police oppression and brutality. The 2nd amendment to the U.S Constitution gives a right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all Black People should arm themselves for self-defense."

Black Power! All Power to the People! We will win the Revolution!

Written February 13th, 2013, So-called Black History Month

General T.A.C.O (Taking All Capitalists Out)
Leader and Chief Theoretician of the Black Riders
… the New Generation Black Panthers!

Neo-Fascism on the Rise

The Hungarian Parliament's governing majority approved the fourth amendment to the Basic Law since it entered into effect 14 months ago, 22 provisions that have renewed fears of a decline of Hungary's democratic institutions, due to the removal of checks and balances to the government's power. The vote went ahead despite calls for restraint from the EU, the US and international institutions, and street protests that continued into the night. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán told a meeting of MPs that approval of the changes would create an "irreversible" situation in which Parliament's role in protecting the constitution supercedes that of the Constitutional Court. As the House voted to reinstate in the Basic Law several measures that had been struck down by the Constitutional Court, the Socialist, Democratic Coalition and Dialogue for Hungary MPs boycotted the voting procedure. Orban's Fidesz party and Christian Socialist allies put the measures through.

How did "goulash communism" devolve into neo-fascism? Even anti-communist Hungarian émigré professor Éva S. Balogh admits that "with the introduction of democracy [after the fall of the socialist state] came existential insecurity, a huge drop in living standards, high unemployment, and of all things, homelessness … things Hungarians were unaccustomed to. That was 20 years ago, and the people are still waiting for that prosperity they were seeking at the end of the 1980s. Instead came one austerity program after the other." In the 2010 national elections, 52.73% of the voters opted for Orbán's right wing nationalist party, Fidesz-KDNP. That translated into 67.88% of the parliamentary seats, giving Orban a two-thirds majority that would enable him to completely change the political structure of the country. Mandatory education has been reduced by two years, higher education has been cut, unemployment benefits have been reduced, and power has been concentrated in the central government. The latest changes mean that a similar simple majority of popular votes will translate into a 75% parliamentary majority by eliminating run-off rounds where opposition parties could unite against Fidesz candidates. Defenders of Orban's economic and social policies dismiss charges of racism, anti-semitism and discrimination against the Roma ("gypsies"). They describe the new Hungary as a "workfare" state – essentially a defense of forced labor.

Neo-Fascists in Greece

As has been well documented in the media, Greece is in the throes of an economic meltdown. Austerity measures aimed at paying off debt have plunged the economy into a death spiral, and sparked nationwide protests and strikes. Unemployment is at 27% and climbing. Much as the Nazis arose in Weimar Germany by exploiting economic conditions, Golden Dawn, an avowedly fascist political party, has been rapidly gaining power in Greece. Once an unimportant fringe group, Golden Dawn captured seven percent of the seats in parliament in the most recent election. Armed with government funding and the tacit cooperation of the police (many of whom are Golden Dawn members), fascists have adopted a strategy of terrorizing immigrants while offering basic social services restricted to Greek citizens.

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First Person Personal:
Resisting Overt & Covert State Violence & Repression

by Vanessa Carlisle, ***Break the Lock program, Inter-communal Solidarity Committee***

Over a year after my Nov. 30, 2011 arrest during the LAPD eviction of Occupy Los Angeles, I got arraigned and pled not guilty to two infractions (violations of municipal code, like speeding tickets). One of them was "loitering in a public park," another some anachronistic code that ends up being something lighter than "disturbing the peace."

I arrived for my pretrial hearing at Dept 40 in the Superior Court of downtown Los Angeles. I checked in with the public defender, Jimmy, who told me I was "*pro per*," meaning I was defending myself and had no attorney assigned to me. You don't get a public defender unless you are facing jail time, and infractions don't carry that possibility. They also don't carry the possibility of having your sentence lessened (like a smaller fine imposed) because of time you've already served, which means that the days I spent in jail are going to be effectively erased from the memory of the state. Like the arrests and time served that have been stolen from so many others before me, while even more punishments, red tape, confusion, and implicit threats of incarceration are levied at them. "Keep your head down or you will invite trouble," is the ethic of a repressive regime, of a police state.

The city attorney's rep called me to her desk to give me some paperwork and discuss my options. She informed me that the city was filing for a continuance, because the one officer who was capable of providing the necessary witness evidence against me was unavailable until after his SWAT training, which lasts until April. Normally for an infraction, if a defendant pleads not guilty and the officer who issued the ticket is unavailable, the charges are dropped. Let's remember I was not ticketed; I was taken into custody, detained for hours in zip-tie handcuffs, booked into Van Nuys Metro Jail, and held for two days.

In other words, instead of having this matter resolved, I'm being held hostage to three more months of informal probation. During that time, I can't get approved to visit a friend in prison at San Quentin, and can't get any more infractions without higher punitive consequence. I certainly can't get arrested or detained unless I am prepared to handle the consequence of a bigger case against me for a supposed "pattern" of behavior.

Here's yet another example of the California budget crisis getting passed to the working class, who usually plead guilty to infractions or have to pay them remotely, because who has time to go to court? Of course, most people would be happy to face an infraction instead of a misdemeanor to forego the possibility of jail time. It's a win-win for the state.

As I read the continuance document, I moved from annoyance at some bloated little bureaucratic skin tag to real rage at what began to feel like an intrusive cancer. I won't detail all of it here, but I'll give one important example. The continuance claims as its basic premise that only one officer has the necessary info for the case to proceed. Without his testimony, the City can't prosecute, so the continuance is a request to wait until he's good and ready to get up and bear witness. Which will be after he's done with SWAT training.

Fact is: **three** male officers were involved in my arrest, and two used "pain compliance" on me that night. Although normally I don't talk to pigs, that night I did. I said, "The last man to touch me like that was a rapist."

I refuse to drop from the "official" narrative the dramatic political theater concocted by the LAPD that night. 1400 armed drones of the state, many with riot gear and rifles, stood in concentric circles around unarmed protestors for hours, before systematically brutalizing every person who didn't stand up when they were commanded to. They used pressure points in our necks and backs. They twisted our legs. They called that "peaceful." They kept the media out. One officer processing my paperwork said, "You work at USC? How could you do something so stupid?"

Well, which is stupider, participating in a system that hurts everyone, or saying NO and taking your lumps on your own terms?

I realize I can't write anything important, love anyone hard enough, work deeply enough at world-making projects, or overcome my fear (of pain, repression, abandonment, or death) if I haven't let go the notion that what I believe in has a chance in hell of fitting into the state structures America operates in. In other words, I fully embrace the adversarial relationship I am in with the institution of criminal "justice." I'm disgusted by it for not only myself, but in solidarity with the millions of people who are bullied into submission by its punitive capitalist formula. My story is only interesting insofar as it is a window into the larger injustice faced by thousands, many of whom have been convinced that this is just how life is lived in Los Angeles, in California, in America.

For those who are unable to stand and fight this kind of state-sanctioned abuse, and even for those who simply believe themselves unable, I have compassionate solidarity. I know what it feels like to be absolutely sure there is no other option but to let an outside force continue attacking you. I have practiced despair, and it is a self-perpetuating, destructive force that often wears a mask of "realism," "being honest about things," or "being practical."

I'm going to die whether I feel hopeless or not, so my goal is always to create something meaningful from what **IS**. My work and life are a piece of political resistance born in full view of the danger posed by the state's violence, and yes, I ask others to take those risks, as a member of the ***Break the Lock*** program and the Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee.

I have been inspired and comforted by others' stories and by the history of those who did the near-impossible, those who kept pressing on when the momentum of the powerful class seemed too strong to meet. Here's to all the people defying the oppressive silencing of a punitive and profit-driven dominant culture and state apparatus. Here's to those lifting the veil on coercion and abuse, in all its forms. Thank you.

The Los Angeles Anti-Eviction Campaign

by Ramona Hampton

Every day the media assure us the economy is recovering, that housing development is on the rise. Statistics and people's lives tell a different story. Today in L.A. County, over 9,000 houses -- the homes of 30,000 displaced people -- are up for auction or trustee sale. Depending on who you talk to, up to 150,000 people in L.A. County are homeless. L.A. sheriff's deputies evict 3,000 households a month.

The Anti-Eviction Campaign is the people's response. Following the path of a movement that has spread from Capetown, South Africa to Chicago and now to LA, the campaign provides neighborhoods with the tools to claim their human right to housing through legal and street actions.

Ashraf Cassiem, a coordinator for the Capetown chapter, proclaims that, "In a capitalist democracy, you only have democracy if you can afford it. International companies cannot own us." With that battle cry, the LAAEC formed and declared: "We will empower the people to stand up and enforce their human rights. We will not allow any more economically motivated evictions in Los Angeles without a fight."

Members have organized neighborhoods to help ten homeowners fight banks and real estate companies. They've started protecting renters and are exploring housing options for prison detainees who are expected to enter the housing market in record numbers under the early release program. Soon, the LAAEC will undertake reclaiming foreclosed homes for the homeless

Their current project is saving the home of Cathelene Hughes, a senior living in South Central. With the support of LAAEC, Mrs. Hughes has filed numerous legal protests to her eviction, canvassed her neighbors for support and held a block party for them, turned away the sheriffs, and spoken at churches and press conferences. She told this reporter, "The L.A. Sheriffs are not protecting the people. They're protecting the investors who are stealing our homes. They're being paid to let the investors take property from homeowners. Our elected officials aren't backing the citizens who are trying to build neighborhoods, homes, they're letting investors come in and take people's properties. When it comes to voting, they promise us this, and they promise us that, but they still throw the people out. We'll be fighting this until it turns around, and I know I'm in the fight until it turns around."

According to Adam Rice, co-chair of LAAEC, "What we have in Los Angeles today is an all-out attack on the human right to housing on every level. Homeowners' homes are stolen from them, and most enter a rental market that has been inflated by their suffering and the suffering of others like them. Some end up on the streets along with 150,000 other people, who are then criminalized and thrown into the only form of housing the government supports: the prison system. For the imperialists, this is not about housing. This is about the break up of any sort of family unit in order to keep us isolated and confused so they can continue to control us."

JR Fleming of the Chicago chapter echoed those ideas: "Everyone should have a roof over their head. People tell us it's illegal for us to occupy our homes, it's illegal to take back the land. They're right, it is illegal, but it's morally right."

You can reach LAAEC at laaeviction@gmail.com, or on http://facebook.com/laantieviction, call 424-209-7990, or write to 3550 Keystone Ave #6, Los Angeles, 90034.

in Hungary and Greece

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Ordinary Greeks are mobilizing to prevent the fascist takeover. Neighborhood assemblies, immigrant solidarity groups, labor unions and others are resisting both Golden Dawn and the destructive government policies that created the economic collapse. Greek activists Sofia Papagiannaki, Thanasis Xirotsopanos and Vangelis Nanos are in the US on a tour, speaking about fascism and resistance in their country. Money raised will go to legal fees for anti-fascist organizers as well as the squats and free social centers that have become home base for anti-fascist organizing. Checks can be made out to The New Significance, a 501c3 not-for-profit that will handle funding for the tour.

Sofia Papagiannaki studied Computer Science in University of Crete and works as software developer. Since 2006 she's worked in the free social center Nosotros in Exarchia, Athens. She has been in the editing team of the anti-authoritarian news-magazine Babylonia. Vangelis Nanos studied Music and Acoustics at the Technological Educational Institute of Crete. He participated in student movements from 1995-99 (school occupations against school reform). He works on pirate radio and antifa patrols. Thanasis Xirotsopanos has been involved in the anarchist movement since early 90's. He participated in the squat community, the anti-globalization movement and social struggle concerning ecology, immigrants and free social spaces. Pavlos was born and raised in Athens. He currently resides in Littleton, CO but has remained very involved with the struggles in his home country, especially with the magazine Eutopia (http://www.eutopia.gr), and the Greek group of libertarian communists (http://eleftheriakoi.blogspot.gr).

Antifa Speaking Tour 2013:
http://antifaevents.wordpress.com/

Babylonia: http://www.babylonia.gr/
From the Greek Streets: http://blog.occupiedlondon.org/
Global Uprisings: http://globaluprisings.org/
Interference Archive: http://interferencearchive.org/
The New Significance: http://www.thenewsignificance.com/
Nosotros: http://www.nosotros.gr/
NYC ANTIFA: http://nycantifa.wordpress.com/

Re: Novick's Article, "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions"

***[Ed. note:** These are excerpts from a much longer letter by a prisoner in response to an editorial in the last issue of TTT. We tried to do justice to the author's intent. We will post the full text in the Break the Lock page at http://tideturning.org, along with other prisoner correspondence. A response follows.]*

So I was sitting on my bunk, rocking out to some music studying 'The State And Revolution' by Lenin, when I'm somewhat surprised at mail call by the latest issue of TTT. Now, I have to say that we been enjoying your paper for some years now, it's one of the few sources of revolutionary minded literature I receive. Anyway, I agree with some of the stuff your paper talks about, in particular the formation and work of the New Black Panther Party, while disagreeing with some of the stuff the New BPP & TTT talks about, such as the concept of inter-communalism. [Ed.: This refers to Black Riders Liberation Party, not New Black Panther Party.]

A couple months ago I wrote your org. a letter in the spirit of Unity-Criticism-Unity with regards to your mis-labeling definition of fascism. I listed my disagreement with it and referred you to some MIM literature. I've been wondering what your org. thought about that? Most likely you disagreed, but in what way exactly? While I did initially wonder these things, not anymore, and my point here is to come to the defense of MIM & MIM (P); in hope something useful to the revolutionary movement will come about. My aim is for us to further build ideological unity on matters of revolutionary-science.

Anyway, my issue is this; Mr. Novick in his attempt to illuminate the prisyn masses with regards to the differences between TTT's line and that of the MIM camp currently represented by MIM (P), United Struggle from Within (a MIM (P) led anti-imperialist mass org. for prisyners) R.A.I.M. and the Leading Light Community Organization….well, I'll just give you a review of the entire article. To begin, I hold MIM (P) in high regard not just because they hold the correct political line on everything politically meaningful under the sun, but because I owe my political development to them.

My first point of contention with Novick's article is when he erroneously makes the statement that MIM's position concerning the labor aristocracy is that it is a permanent labor aristocracy. That's false. Yes, the so-called amerikan "worker" is indeed part of the labor aristocracy and not "proletariat," as revisionists of varying stripes would contend. The amerikan "worker" forms a part of the l.a.; a sub-stratum of the petty-bourgeoisie. To continue to advocate for a false thesis of an Amerikan 'proletariat" is to advocate for multi-national/class unity that leads one to wait for the white working-class to wake and come to the oppressed nation rescue.

Novick is also incorrect in his statement that "MIM sees women and prisoners as elements of U.$. society where there is prospect of revolutionary development." MIM never saw, nor does it today see first world wimmin as comprising an element of U.$. society in which there is any real group oppression to speak of which would provide a prospect for revolution. Or in MIM's own words, "…MIM came to the conclusion, that like First World labor, First World women are mainly oppressors, not oppressed people."

We disagree with Novick's assertion that exploitation exists within the First World, outside the realm of commodity production in which waged labor "produces" surplus value. Exploitation is defined as producing something and not being paid for the value of what you produce (making an exception for people who are intimately tied up in the production process, like janitors for example). As MIM has held, there is no exploitation going on in the U.$., no surplus value being produced by the piggish labor aristocracy, and no super-profits being extracted within U.$. borders. These are happening in the Third World, it's what modern day imperialism is all about; shipping finance, capital to the Third World and there enslaving the workers. What goes on here in the First World is nothing more than a re-appropriation of stolen Third World loot amongst the so-called "workers."

Novick is further wrong in his contention that we assume privilege and oppression as being "absolute phenomenon, unchanging and mutually exclusive." Quite the contrary, as dialectical-materialists we certainly know that nothing is absolute (except the struggle of the opposites) or unchanging. If such an absurdity were true than MIM (P) wouldn't be taking the time to help develop the imprisoned lumpen of which the rest of society has long since cast off into the abyss.

We recognize that there's indeed a obvious intersection in nation and class contradictions within the U.$. In a sense, this is what MIM (P) work is all about; working with the lumpen, the oppressed nation lumpen in particular, so that we may not only build towards liberating our people, but so that we may liberate our class. This will be our contribution to the ICM and oppressed people of the world. However, there is a dialectical process and as such a lengthy process of stages of which phenomenon must go thru before change is complete. Mutually exclusive phenomena don't magically transcend from one stage to another.

The First and the Third World is currently locked in struggle. This struggle is representative of two mutually exclusive classes that are the bourgeoisie and the proletariat; this is the fundamental contradiction on a world scale. Furthermore, this contradiction has manifested itself into antagonistic form, which has manifested itself into the principal contradiction on a world scale; which is of course, imperialism vs. the oppressed nations.

Now, objectively, what side of this contradiction are we on? First World "workers" and Third World labor are two mutually exclusive phenomena, not just because the former feeds off the latter, but because both hold different positions with respect to the global relations of production and worldwide means of production as well. What Novick keeps blinding himself to here is that there is a quantitative/ qualitative difference between the First and the Third World, in wage differentials, living standards and government services. [These] are representative of real life material interests which chain the supposed First World "proletariat" to the imperialist fatherland.

How many times in history have First World "workers" risen to remove the mountain of imperialism off their backs, in contrast to the Third World masses? If anything, history has proven the only thing First World people get off their lazy asses for is to clamor for more super-profits and the wars they engender. Even with a catastrophic economic crisis Amerikans will not easily forget how good they had it and would rather go to war for the privilege of Big Mac fries than suffer the plight of the truly oppressed & exploited. We know Amerikans will not reform of their own accord, and so a Joint Dictatorship of the Proletariat of the Oppressed Nations will have to be instituted over the former global exploiters so that we may be integrated into socialist society.

The next paragraph is so ridiculous that I was initially taken aback when reading it. Seriously? "MIM isolates prisons from the social contradictions they enforce"?! Please, inform yourselves properly on that which you criticize. The Maoist-Internationalist Movement and its spin-off organizations have long since held that the amerikan prisyn system largely emerged as a form of social control to maintain in check the superfluous lumpen population of the Black, Brown, and First Nations following the national liberation struggles of the 60s and 70s. MIM is the only org. in the U.$. working to politically develop the U.$. lumpen so we may become the subjective motivating force for the liberation and self-determination of the oppressed internal semi-colonies that are New Afrika, Aztlan, and the various First Nations! They alone have been doing this for many years now. And where has the rest of the Amerikan left been in all this besides squealing for more blood, sweat, & tears from the Third World?

I'm wondering if your org. has ever heard of 'Under Lock & Key'? UL&K is the voice of the anti-imperialist movement within prisyns in the U.$. UL&K serves as a forum to develop and promote agitational campaigns led by MIM (P) and UVW. UL&K is edited and published by MIM (Prisons), and mostly written by UVW and other United Front org. behind bars. See prisoncensorship.info for more on the important work currently being carried out by the MIM (P) cell.

Another outright lie by Novick is his statement that "MIM's view obscures class and colonial contradictions in the U.$." And what exactly is meant by the statement that "…privileges and class domination exist outside them in so many so-called Third World societies aligned with imperialism or competing for advantage within the imperialist system"? Do I detect a hint of great Amerikan chauvinism, or am I just trippin?

Now, I didn't wanna throw it out there like this but damn, is Michael Novick a cop? Is he an agent provocateur? Don't get me wrong, but I know an undercover cop when I see one and I know an agent when I read such filth! Don't believe me? Fine, go to prisoncensorship.info and see for yourself.

As if all this isn't enough Novick once again shows his Trotskyist colors when he criticizes "cross-class" alliances, in particular the United Front method of work, you know, the same U.F. that brought us such victories as the Soviet Union in 1917 and the People's Republic of China in 1949. Novick makes it appear as if the struggle in South Africa was a People's War waged for national liberation, self-determination, socialist dictatorship and influenced by MIM. The disaster in S. Africa had nothing to do with a communist vanguard led United Front, but rather, everything to do with its lack thereof.

Finally MIM's definition does not "ignore" the exploitation of the planet or the exploitation that occurs in unwaged labor (migrant labor in the First World today, the only real unwaged labor that's occurring on a group or class level and is why we say that migrants are the only real proletariat to speak of in the U.$.), nor is the concept of surplus value ever irrelevant when speaking of the money that lines the pockets of First World populations.

Please refrain from making such fallacious remarks about MIM, cause it ain't gone nowhere but to the belly of the beast from where it'll help destroy Amerikan imperialism.

Long live the legacies of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, and Mao!
Ipso-facto long live MIM!

The Editor of TTT Responds

The commentary in the last issue about differences between the editor's perspective and the Maoist Internationalist Movement happily provoked quite a few responses. We hope to increase our capacity to encourage serious political discussion. Thanks to the comrade for his above explication of MIM's line. As the original article implied, this is a contradiction among the people (despite the letter-writer's accusation that your editor is a cop and/or agent provocateur).

100 years ago, Lenin insightfully wrote that the principal contradiction in the world was between oppressor and oppressed nations, but that doesn't eliminate other contradictions within and between nations, classes, and individuals. Lenin led a change of the slogan of the International from "Workers of the World Unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains!" to, "Workers and Oppressed People of the World Unite! You have a world to win!" This summarizes 3 critical understandings. 1) The unity that must be built extends beyond workers; anti-oppression, anti-colonial work is critical to building that unity. 2) Workers and oppressed people may have something to lose besides chains; we have stakes and ties in the very system that oppresses and exploits us. 3) Working and oppressed people have to build a new, different and better world.

One needn't be a Leninist to recognize these truths. The problem I see with MIM is that in its staunch defense of the significance of the contradiction between oppressor and oppressed nations, and its doctrinaire reliance on its version of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, it petrifies all other contradictions and the flow of history. This is detrimental to the cause of revolution it espouses.

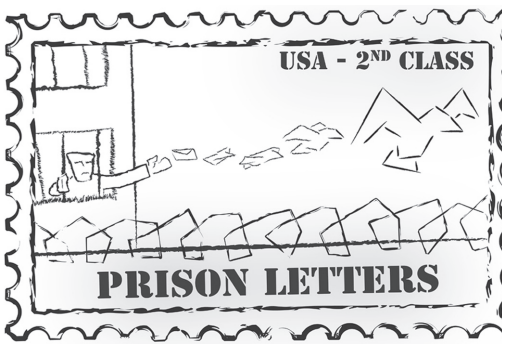
The U.S., like Czarist Russia, isn't a "nation" but a prison-house of nations. **Because** of its founding and development as a white supremacist settler-colonial empire, incorporating indigenous land and people, importing and subjugating Africans as chattel slaves, its ongoing conquest and expansion, because it bases its culture on the dog-eat-dog mentality of capitalism, the US is riven with **internal** contradictions. These existed long before it became the HQ of a globe-spanning empire, and intensify even as the imperialists loot and bully the planet. African, Hawaiian, indigenous, Mexican, Inuit, Puerto Rican, Guamanian and other people are not "semi-colonies," they are colonized peoples whose land, labor and resources are **currently** being stolen by the Empire. Ignoring this reality by classifying all working people within the US as "oppressor nation petty-bourgeois labor aristocrats" disarms those who have the capacity to break both their chains and their identification with and links to the Empire.

The existence of imperial super-profits doesn't negate the existence of simple profits. Super-exploitation doesn't mean there's no regular exploitation. No private employer hires a worker unless they're pretty damn sure the work that worker does will make the boss more money than the boss has to pay for the work. If not, you're fired. Internally, the US Empire continues to exploit (and thereby destroy) the air, water, soil, and life-generating capacity of the lands and people under its direct domestic domination. Capitalism and imperialism haven't eliminated all prior forms of oppression; far from it – they've heightened the exploitation of women, peasants, all others species of life, of the soil and sea. We can't abandon or abstain from the struggle behind enemy lines against all those forms of exploitation and oppression that continue to be vital to the Empire.

If the domestic population is totally bribed and benefiting from Empire to the exclusion of any contradiction, why are the gulags necessary? Why would the US have a quarter of all the world's prisoners? Why would there be more European-descent prisoners today than the entire prison population 40 years ago? Why would the NDAA, or the militarizing of cops, schools, and the border be necessary? Not death squads yet, but not one big happy family.

continued on next page...

Writing Through the Walls



United K.A.G.E. Brothers

Revolt Greetings!

I believe in recognizing every human being as a human being - Neither white, Black, Brown or red!

-Malcolm X

Every day I'm struggle in tooth & nail among the Bias Overheads 2gether me and my United K.A.G.E. Brothers here at CSP 270 A yard have come in solidarity to advocate against the injustice, racism and inhumane living conditions that we face-off with every turn we take.

I and UKB-Union Group will be in Solidarity with the July 8th Hunger Strike, Single cell, Work Stoppage Mass Prisoners Movement. I am also in solidarity with Prisoners Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition (PHSS) which is a pen pal program with anti-racists, 'outside the walls.'

My hope is that you all here at Anti-Racist Action could assist us as far as finding those people of interest to become outside volunteers or sponsors for our (UKB) Self Help Study Groups. For more, contact us by email via
www.FriendswithPens.com/AKAGE BrotherRedemption

-In Struggle P.F.

Something Russ Said

Not long ago, October 2012, Russell Means passed on, after a life of struggle against the culture of the Invaders of TURTLE ISLAND, a culture that in all its facets changed the destiny of the native peoples of the western hemisphere. As a Warrior and leader, Russ took on several battles. One was the re-occupation of the Black Hills of South Dakota at Camp Yellow Thunder. There I met Russ and listened to him talk, while performing tasks in or around camp, gathering firewood, during meals, sweats, putting up the sundance arbor, etc.

That's when I heard "Something Russ Said." Specifically, that Native Americans aren't criminals for breaking the laws of the US. The only laws they're subject to are tribal laws, compliant with traditional standards. The wealth of non-natives is the result of invasion and stolen from Native Peoples, and we're just taking back what's ours. I'm not quoting verbatim, but it's the essence of what Russ more eloquently conveyed. Something for people to think about when evaluating an alleged criminal act committed by a Native American. Was the act a crime, or an act of war and/or resistance?

However you, the non-native, defines who is a political prisoner, your definitions aren't applicable to Native Americans, unless you understand the effects invasion and subjugation have upon Native peoples. Most acts deemed crimes by non-tribal governments can be attributed to the conquest of Native Americans, and this makes us political prisoners and POWs. Ask yourself who's the real criminal, the Native American in prison, or you? The native, serving a harsher sentence than a non-native for the same act, denied the opportunity to practice our spiritual beliefs, which for many only awakened after coming to prison. That would be 'growth' that prison administrators reward in non-native prisoners, but they discourage Native Americans, as it enhances unity and discourages assimilation.

Native Peoples have become self aware in part due to Russell Means's service to the People. He remains an example of resistance despite those who would dishonor his service by disparaging his acting or assassinating his character. The blame lies with the US Government and its covert tactics to destroy AIM and the goals it sought to accomplish for the Native Peoples and continues to do to this day.

In the Spirit of Resistance,
Eric Wildcat Hall

Editor Responds

...continued from previous page

Why would the total-surveillance State operate with impunity inside the borders? As any prisoner can attest, privilege coexists with oppression, but a prisoner granted privileges by a CO or warden is still a prisoner.

On the other hand, if the oppressed nation category encompasses all of Africa, Asia/Oceania and Latin America, how do you account for the mass reactionary, counter-revolutionary base inside Venezuela, or Libya, or Indonesia? How account for Brazil as a gendarme of imperialism in Haiti and elsewhere? How do you analyze China's role in the re-colonization of Africa, extracting natural resources, selling finished goods, and cutting deals with repressive regimes that oppress their own people? How do you deal with the Arab slave trade, or the importation of Asian Muslims by the Saudis and the Emirates?

The world is inherently and inevitably more complicated than any slogan or model can contain.

Revolutionary strategy must be based on a concrete analysis of concrete conditions, not arbitrary, fixed categories, to determine friends and enemies.—MN

Ad Seg: High Desert State Prison, NV

I received your card around 12-10-12. Sorry for the delay but I've had some chaos to deal with here, part of which is a settlement on litigation that may put me on the streets… I'll believe it when I see it. Anyway, I think I have the mail situation fixed – they deny anything dealing with ***TTT*** but they already admitted to rejecting "Under Lock & Key" so I have them on the spot . . . (no, I'm not Maoist but MIM does put work in on prison issues and it's all one fight really). So, hopefully the next issue will not vanish. Attached is a submission. There's a lot going on at this prison and there's a lot of scrutiny. This is just a glimpse.

In Struggle and Solidarity,
Musu

No Holiday from Oppression

On 1-1-13 a racist pig named Yates assaulted a Black prisoner in the presence of his supervising officer. The supervisor did NOTHING to prevent the assault, nor to stop it once started. The supervisor refused to call a Lt., give the prisoner an emergency grievance or request medical attention. After C/O Yates failed to grab the prisoner through the cuff port, he attempted to break the prisoner's arm by kicking the cuff port flap several times with the prisoner's arm in it.

Since November this same C/O targeted two other Black prisoners. One has gone elsewhere but the second, a diabetic and litigant, is still here. His problems began with his medically prescribed tray. Yates has since engaged in repeated and persistent provocation, threats, disciplinary action and property confiscation to the point that this prisoner can't leave his cell for a shower or rec without fear of losing his property or having his cell destroyed. He and the prisoner assaulted on 1-1-13 were both told by this same pig that he would starve them. Yates said he'd kill them, watch them die and enjoy every minute of it and that he'd make their lives a living hell.

He has made it clear that grievances are useless, that admin has his back and if he did kill one of us he'd get a promotion and a pay raise…says he can't be fired.

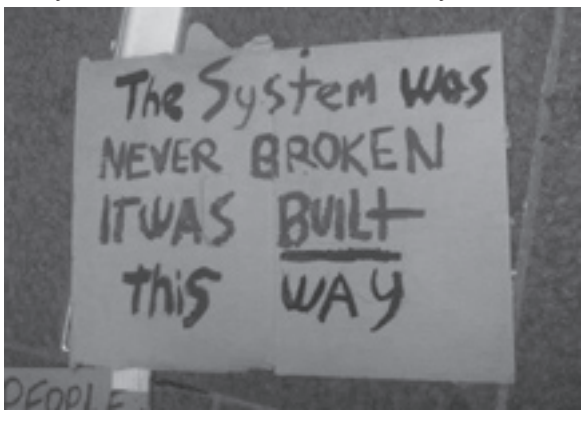
This attitude is not uncommon at HDSP. This pig and others (especially in Seg) routinely refuse emergency grievances or throw them away, refuse to call supervisors, leave prisoners in cells without property for weeks, withhold food as "punishment," refuse to answer call buttons, and leave the heat off. My first 5 days were spent without my religious diet, effectively starving me. I'm certain this was part of the retaliatory program along with my Seg placement for helping others with litigation and grievances and organizing complaints about conditions.

A few of us are fighting but it's difficult to do so collectively in Seg. Ordinary apathy is amplified during the "holiday season"…This has always been hard for me to comprehend – these are kapitalist holidays which celebrate genocide and destruction of whole cultures and capitulate the oppressor/class system. These aren't holidays to which we're invited – they're imposed. Thanksgiving was declared by Gov. William Bradford in 1637 to celebrate the murder of 700+ Indigenous people of all ages and genders during the Pequot Massacre…And we all know about Columbus as well.

In Nevada we get better food on kapitalist/konqueror holidays. Everybody puts on a happy face and gets some holiday cheer. The rest of the year we're starved and treated like herd animals. I'm 50 and have been captive barring 3 years since 1976 (do the math) and this has been the case every year. These are not our holidays and I find the national obsession with celebrating mass murder (and mass imprisonment) disturbing.

In hindsight, some racist pig assaulting a Black prisoner on a kapitalist holiday is "in step with tradition," I guess.

We'll continue our fight against these institutions and it is not easy, because for us there are no holidays!



Another Response to MIM(Prisons)

Hello, I am called Ruin. Thanks for sending me this issue! I read your article, and was pleasantly surprised to find that we share similar views concerning MIM(PRISONS) and its ideological shortcomings. MIM(PRISONS) kicked me out of its study groups because I dared to venture alternative perspectives on what it presents as categorically one-sided. I think what irritated them the most is that I was presumptuous enough to attempt opening discussions about several points in their ideology within the framework of their ideology. As you basically said, MIM(PRISONS) can't think outside the box. I've decided to send you correspondence I saved from MIM(PRISONS) for just this occasion: to send it to a like-minded individual or organization who can make proper use of it as the evidence of obtuse alienation that it is.

Because of what I read of your personal opinion, I'm willing to send you more information regarding my resistance activities, my writings and art, or anything else I can tell you about. I was born in Redding, CA, raised in CA, and incarcerated in the CYA (now CDCR-DJJ) at NYCRCC, O.H. Close, Preston, El Paso del Robles, SYCRCC, and N.A. Chaderjian from Sept. '99 to Feb. '07. I'm very active here in the TDCJ, even though I am in not only Ad. Seg. but "Super Seg."

I have alot to share with you and the ICSC if you use the enclosed SASE to write back to let me know whether or not you even give a fuck, and if so, what you would like for me to provide you with. I'm a hard-worker and very sincere about ending all oppression, and if you give me an honest chance I promise I'll prove to be a worthwhile expenditure of your time.

Thank you, again, for the issue of "TTT". Please continue with providing the type of realistic, holistic perspective so very much needed within the global community of radical ideologies.

Take Care, Be With Peace
Ruin
AGAINST ALL AUTHORITY

[name redacted]
2661 FM 2054 - Coffield Unit
Tennessee Colony, TX 75884

Here's their letter to me regarding our study group:

Revolutionary greetings!

This is to inform you we received your letter from 9/14, a response to MIM(Prisons) regarding the level 1 assignment, and the response to MIM(Prisons)'s letter to you from 8/13 regarding your criticisms of *MIM Theory 7*.

We want to inform you that you will not be moving from level 1 to level 2. In your letter you said you were working on an essay to trade for the study group. We are still interested in reading your essay, so you should feel free to send it. However it will not grant you access to the level 2 group.

This is because you disagree with MIM(Prisons)'s line on many fundamental issues, and just as you say that the intro group has been a waste of your time, it's a waste of our time to study with people who consistently disagree with us. There must be some unity and growth in the study process for it to be worthwhile, and you expressed that you don't agree with anything we say, either. For these reasons we are choosing to discontinue this study relationship.

Just like any other prisoner, we will still keep your subscription to ***Under Lock & Key*** active if you renew it every 6 months. If you change your mind about some of the issues we've discussed and would like to study with us again, please send us a self-criticism and we will consider that prospect.

In Struggle,

MIM(Prisons), intro study group
PO Box 40799
San Francisco, CA 94140

INTER-COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE
PO BOX 1055
CULVER CITY, CA 90235-1055

TO:

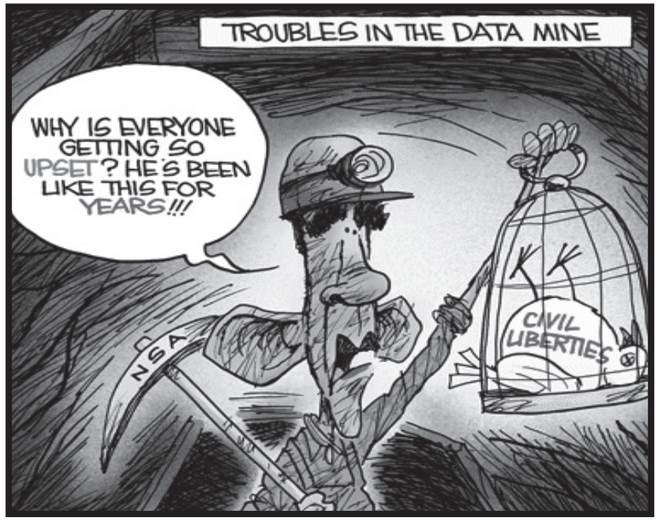
COMING UP

7.13 3pm solidarity rally outside CORCORAN STATE PRISON
[carpool available from CHUCO'S JUSTICE CENTER in LOS ANGELES]

7.20 HANDS OFF AFRICA MOVEMENT
Southern California Library
6120 S Vermont - Los Angeles

10.18 thru 10.20
ANTI-RACIST ACTION
network gathering
LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 11.1
PACK THE COURTS
as area NAZI's are brought to trial for
THE MURDER OF 2 LOCAL ANTI-RACISTS



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DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY

by Mumia Abu-Jamal

In the wake of the revelations by intelligence contractor Edward Smowden, that the US government reads billions of American's records, and noted tens of millions of Americans' cell phone records, apologists for the PATRIOT Act's draconian snooping program rushed to defend this governmental intrusion, by citing court and Congressional approval and oversight.

It sounds good, but what does it really mean? The court isn't really a court, in the traditional sense. It's not in any courtroom open to the public. It's a secret court, with secret judges, who sit inside a soundproof room in the US Justice Department. In the book The Shadow Factory by James Bamford, we find judges on this secret tribunal referring to the FISA court – FISA for Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act – as a "Potemkin* court," or a fake court, that looks like a court but is really something else.

As for Congress, it may do some things well, but oversight ain't one of them. L. Fletcher Prouty, an Air Force officer who worked with the Joint Chiefs of Staff on various CIA missions, tells of meeting with a Senator to brief him on undercover operations. According to Prouty, the Senator told him before the briefing began, "Keep it short. What I don't know about it, won't hurt me." In other words, don't tell me.

The government says, "It's ok. Don't worry. Be happy."

From imprisoned nation, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal. These commentaries are recorded by Noelle Hanrahan of Prison Radio. http://prisonradio.org/media/audio/mumia

* A "Potemkin village" was a false-front village designed to fool the Russian tsar into thinking his subjects were well-housed.

Cathelene Hughes' Revolution

by Ramona Hampton

This is a follow-up to an article that appeared in the last edition of Turning the Tide. *We hope you enjoy Ms. Hughes' continuing struggle to save her home.*

LOS ANGELES, 8 June 2013--Cathelene Hughes and her South Central Los Angeles neighbors are turning themselves into the nemesis international billionaire real estate mogul Thomas J. Barrack. In late April, Ms. Hughes reclaimed her South Central home on Wall Street and her human right to housing from ColFin AI-CA5, a subsidiary of Colony American Homes. Barrack, the CEO of Colony American Homes and its parent company, Colony Capital LLC, claims that he purchased title to her home in a foreclosure sale last August.

With help from family, friends,and the Los Angeles Anti-Eviction Campaign, Ms. Hughes turned the tables and evicted ColFin's property management company. This otherwise unassuming block of working class neighbors threw a wrench into the collusion between banks and real estate companies to convert homes to rentals and homeowners into homeless people. They have declaried their neighborhood a "No Displacement Zone."

Colony American Homes uses ColFin to acquire "single-family homes to execute a residential rental strategy across the US," according to its website. Colony Capital's investment plan is to invest in "real estate and real estate-related debt investments, non-performing loans, distressed assets, and real estate-dependent operating companies." Colony Capital has raised $2.2B to colonize U.S. homes in bulk and rent them out, according to Bloomberg News. Since April, ColFin has purchased twenty homes in South Central, Compton, and Watts.

Barrack privately or through Colony Capital has major investments in Miramax Studios, casinos, resorts, and a winery. He lives in a Central Park apartment, a hacienda in Santa Barbara, a 1200-acre ranch outside of Santa Ynez, and Chateau Lascombes in Bordeaux, France. He purchased the Michael Jackson estate Neverland and became a financial counselor to the star, advising Jackson to launch his final tour to bolster the pop sensation's flagging finances. After Jackson's untimely death preparing for that tour, Barrack met with local resistance when he floated the idea of turning Jackson's home into a theme park similar to Graceland.

Ms. Hughes lives in the tiny 400 square foot back house on her lot. She rented out the 750 square foot front house until the property management company ran her tenant out in October. ColFin now takes the rental income from that home. Her lot measures about 5000 square feet.

In March, Ms. Hughes filed to evict Strategic Property Management, the property management company hired by ColFin, from her home. She filed a quiet title lawsuit against Strategic, ColFin, and Barrack, asserting that the transfer of her home through half a dozen titleholders and several finance companies had so damaged the title that purchasing it constituted fraud.

If you stroll through her nearly treeless neighborhood you'll notice every fifth or sixth house is empty, some waiting for the real estate company to slap on a coat of paint and "genuine granite countertops," others already painted, sodded, and sporting new windows with a "For Rent/Se Renta" sign in the yard. It's not to difficult to imagine the remaining homeowners, who seem to be at work day and night scrambling to make ever-escalating mortgages in the rows of decades-old tract homes, and it's not difficult to imagine that in the near future, these same homeowners will, like Ms. Hughes lose their savings and years of investment to a real estate billionaire.

Strategic has sent a pair of strong-arms to her house twice, demanding "their" house back, only to be rebuffed by Ms. Hughes' determination. She has turned away the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriffs, sent by Strategic, on five visits, asserting that her filings with the court gave her custody of the land.

Strategic has dragged Ms. Hughes in and out of court, claiming that they need an emergency judgment against her because the owner of Strategic, Peter Baer, is being "irreparable harmed" by her continuing occupation. Baer is claiming losses of $100 per day as long as she resides there. On one occasion, Baer's attorney signed in as the plaintiff, to the court commissioner's amusement. Thus far, the commissioner has allowed Ms. Hughes to remain.

Her lawsuit against Barrack and ColFin will be heard probably in July, and she might go in with the advantage of having actual possession of the property. If she wins, she will one of a handful of homeowners who have managed to beat back a judiciary that, in almost all instances, has sided with the banks and real estates companies.

Meanwhile, her friends and neighbors are rallying around the septuagenarian, watching her house when she runs errands and promising to help her stop Barrack.

A Significant Challenge to Conventional Revolutionary Thought

Excepts From a Review by Steve Bloom

Maroon the Implacable--The Collected Writings of Russell Maroon Shoatz, edited by Quincy Saul and Fred Ho, 2013, PM Press, Oakland, CA., 294 pages, $20.

Reading this book was a rare experience: both revelatory and challenging. There are ideas here that you have not heard before and that deserve to be engaged and discussed in a serious way. Everything Shoatz writes is intelligent, based in a deep, complex appreciation of the social and historical context.

Russell Maroon Shoatz is not a household name. Not even all those engaged in work to free political prisoners in the US have heard about his case -- though a campaign launched in early 2013 is changing that. Go to www.freemaroon.org to find out more. Shoatz is a political prisoner, a former Black Panther and revolutionary activist from Philadelphia. He's been behind bars since 1972 -- except for two brief periods when he escaped, earning the nickname "Maroon." More than 30 years have been in solitary confinement. His ability to remain so in touch with what's happening in the world, to discourse intelligently on popular culture and political events, is a testimony to his intense intellect and profound perseverance.

This collection of essays, written mostly for the education of fellow prisoners, is therefore in a popular, easy-to-read style. But it's also filled with profound insights. Most of the material -- except for one essay written explicitly for the book -- previously existed only in the form of scattered pamphlets or manuscripts in the files of family and friends. The editors have included everything that was available to them. "Respect Our Mothers, Stop Hating Women" (2010), with conclusions that might seem obvious to those who went through discussions in activist and academic circles after the feminist rebirth during the 1970s, takes on a qualitatively different meaning if we understand the context of the masculinist culture that predominates in a prison where men are incarcerated. This was also a prominent feature of the Black revolutionary milieu that Maroon himself comes out of. It thus represents a significant personal testament by a human being who challenged himself and the culture that surrounds him.

Subject matter ranges from the fraud perpetrated by the US prison system to the theory of revolutionary organization. It includes a deep critique by an active participant of the Black liberation movement as it developed in the 1960s and '70s. Maroon does not fail to salute the important advances in consciousness that were made during this period and embodied in such organizations as the Black Panther Party. But he also undertakes a balance sheet that considers their weaknesses and flaws.

One key historical insight is contained in Maroon's essay, "The Real Resistance to Slavery in North America" (2005). The focus is on an element most readers will be completely unaware of -- the maroon communities created primarily by escaped slaves but including native peoples who refused to adapt to white settler-colonial society, and disaffected whites who dropped out of that society. Creating an independent culture within territories considered by others to be unsuitable for habitation. These maroon communities battled for decades against all attempts to wipe them out, providing a refuge for escaping slaves and a fighting force that was among the elements that led to a Northern victory in the Civil War.

Shoatz distinguishes "treaty maroons," who won their own independence, then attempted to institutionalize what they had won -- often agreeing to sell out the interests of other slaves or native peoples to their former oppressors in the process -- and those he labels "fighting maroons," who never compromised the struggle for genuine independence.

In "The Dragon and the Hydra: A Historical Study of Organizational Methods" (2006), he focuses on how maroon communities that refused to subordinate themselves to any centralized authority were able to survive and continue to struggle, whereas those that attempted to establish more conventional forms of state structures were consistently beheaded, co-opted, or transformed into new kinds of repressive instruments, as in Haiti. His conclusion is that the proper organizational model for genuine revolutionary struggle should be the multi-headed 'hydra," rather than the centralized "dragon." This constitutes a particular challenge for those who have built organizations based on a version of the "Leninist" paradigm.

We have to acknowledge Shoatz's insights. Yet there's something that he doesn't consider: even if the decentralized maroon struggles were able to survive, they weren't able to stop the global advance of the imperial project that threatens the destruction of our planet. Something else needs to be factored in, if we're going to dismantle the machinery of patriarchal white supremacy and imperial conquest. I've begun a correspondence with Maroon on this question. From our exchange it's clear he's an honest, creative revolutionary

One influence Shoatz names prominently is Fred Ho, an editor of this volume, whose proposal to embrace "matriarchy" as an alternative to patriarchy and "manifest destiny Marxism" Shoatz embraces. For Ho and Shoatz this represents something more than "feminism," which suggests equality of women with men in the context of industrial culture. Their concept ties in with a vision of "eco-socialism." Shoatz calls for development of a "subsistence economy." He uses this term not in the sense of an economy that produces a bare minimum necessary for survival, but in the sense used by writers like Maria Mies and Vandana Shiva from whom Shoatz quotes extensively. It's an economy where local production for local use begins to replace a reliance on globalized industrial production. It's an idea that deserves a serious conversation. Read this book if you want to be challenged in creative and intelligent ways.

The W.L. Nolen Mentorship Program Takes Aim at Extending The Legacy of Past New Afrikan Revolutionary Leaders

EACH ONE, TEACH ONE

W.L. Nolen

THE W.L. NOLEN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM [W.L.N.M.P.] is a community-based pen-pal service, that has been constructed in order to provide the people of our communities, with an opportunity to connect with, and engage the current class & generation of New Afrikan black revolutionaries on several fronts. There are many within our communities, who have unfortunately succumb to an incorrect level of understanding, that the New Afrikan black liberation movement, as it once was constructed under the tutelage $ guidance of, such beautiful & courageous New Afrikan black bothas like, W.L. Nolen, William Christmas, James McClain, Cleveland Edwards, Alvin "Sweet Jugs" Miller, Jeffry "Khatari" Gaulden, Comrad George Jackson, & countless others -- Has somehow ended, when these Brothas were murdered by the fascists -- goons of this police state!!

There is an urgent need for this level of false consciousness to be corrected, as the new African Black Liberation Movement as it existed in the 60's & 70's, is still being propagated today, as predicated upon continuum of the same ideological struggle of New African Revolutionary Nationalism (N.A.R.N.), which entails, resisting the litany of human rights abuses, such as: genocide that is based upon systemic cultural deprivation; torture by way of indefinite solitary confinement; institutional racism; police brutality; arbitrary parole board denials; inadequate food & nutrition; inadequate medical & health care; being deprived of our 1st Amendment freedoms of speech, expression, and association; falsely labeling prisoners as gang members, etc..

OBJECTIVES

The W.L.N.M.P. will serve as the medium to negate the level of false consciousness among the people, by providing the people with a correct understanding of the New African Black Liberation Movement via the social principles of "Each one - Teach one" (e.g. "Communal - co•operative work"), where the people will have the opportunity to learn & educate themselves on various issues, by corresponding with New African black revolutionaries.

For those individuals who are not familiar with the social concept of "Each one - Teach one" (e.g. "Communal - co•operative work"), it essentially entails, replacing "individualism" with "collectivism", where the problems of the "individuals", become the problems of the "community", by speaking with one voice via our collective struggles of unified activity, that is geared toward finding & developing community-based solutions that will protect the health of our communities. Hence, participant of the W.L.N.M.P. are encouraged to discuss & write about any personal issue that they may need mentorship with, as we New African Black Revolutionaries can provide tutelage & guidance in the following areas of:

"To enable the people of the community to have an intelligent or informed opinion about matters of importance, the principal role of leaders is to study & to institute studies upon the basis of which plans are developed ..."

THE DESTRUCTION OF BLACK CIVILIZATION
—Chancellor Williams

1.) Violence prevention & intervention; 2.) Developing critical thinking skills; 3.) Cultural tolerance & sensitivity; 4.) Alternatives to joining gangs; 5.) Support for single mothas; 6.) Economic empowerment; 7.) How to over-come alcohol & drug addiction; 8.) Domestic violence conflict reolution; 9.) Avoiding negative peer pressure; and 10.) Providing tools to help develop community responsibility and awareness.

A study guide will be provided to the people, as a part of the W.L.N.M.P., so the people will have additional tools to raise their level of understanding of the New African Black Liberation Movement, as it is presently constructed in today's slave kamps (e.g. "prisons"), to thus uproot the materialism of false consciousness among the people. The issue of being right or wrong, as it pertains to the material in the study guide is of no real significance, as freedom is a constant struggle!!

But my people, it is imperative to understand, that the W.L.N.M.P. can only be sustained, by each correspondent being willing to donate/contribute stamps & writing paper, as a part of the participation & correspondence, as this is the only way that communication an be maintained. We're only allowed to have up to 40 stamps or embossed envelopes, & a total of 500 sheets of writing paper sent to us per. each mailing. However, any amount (e.g. "5 to 50 stamps or embossed envelopes & 50 sheets of writing paper") that is sent will definitely be appreciated, as it will go a long way towards achieving the objectives herein.

Participants will be required to fill out the W.L.N.M.P. enrollment application form, so that your progress & completion of the program can be properly documented with a certificate of achievement, and/or extra credits if you're a person in school.

We're also looking for college professors, human rights activists/organizations to help facilitate the W.L.N.M.P.. If interested, please be sure to contact u, as more information about the W.L.N.M.P. is in the process of being posted on the following websites:

www.prisonactivists.org

www.prisonhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com

www.stoptortureca.org

To check out some of our work-product, write to:

SOUTH CHICAGO ABC ZINE DISTRO.
C/O ANTHONY RAYSON
P.O. BOX 721
HOMEWOOD, ILL. 60430

We have also created the Pelican Bay Human Rights Movement (P.B.H.R.M.) First Amendment Campaign, as a community-based tool, to protect/defend the people's human right to free speech, expression, & association. To support, get involved with, & learn more about this project, write to and ask for the P.B.H.R.M. First Amendment Campaign's Mission Statement at:

ATTORNEY CAROL STRICKMAN
In re: First Amendment Campaign
1540 Market St. -- Suite #490
San Francisco, CA. 94102
azadeh@prisonerswithchildren.org.

We New Africans can be contact at:

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EDUCATE TO LIBERATE!
ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE
WHO DO NOT FEAR THE REAL FREEDOM!

Peaceful Protest to Resume July 8 If Demands Are Not Met

by Pelican Bay SHU Short Corridor Representatives

ATTENTION: Governor Jerry Brown; CDCR Secretary Jeffrey Beard; and all other parties of interest.

In response to CDCR's failure to meet our 2011 Five (5) Core Demands, the PBSP-SHU Short Corridor Representatives respectfully present this notice of, and basis for, our individualized, collectively agreed upon, decision to resume our nonviolent peaceful protest action on July 8, 2013.

The upcoming peaceful protest will be a combined Hunger Strike [HS] – Work Stoppage [WS] action. Once initiated, this protest will continue indefinitely—until all Five (5) Core Demands are fully met. … Governor Brown's and CDCR Secretary Cate's failure to make the changes agreed upon during the July/October 2011 negotiation process, has forced us to resume our nonviolent hunger strike/work stoppage protest.

During these negotiations, CDCR's Undersecretary Kernan, et al, acknowledged the reasonableness of our demands and asked us to suspend our hunger strike in order to give the CDCR time to implement timely and meaningful changes of real substance, in response to our demands. We agreed — while CDCR has failed to do their part.

The undisputable fact is that many of us have been held in solitary confinement for the past 10 to 40 years, based on fabricated information provided by prisoners who have been tortured to the point where they provide false information to IGI, in order to get out of the SHU/Ad-Seg. Few of us, if any, have ever been formally charged with, or found guilty of a single illegal, gang-related act. (To review our Formal Complaint, go to: prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com/formal-complaint. For the 5 Core Demands, see: http://www.prisons.org/documents/FinalNoticewith5CoreDemands.doc).

We have demonstrated our commitment to our cause through our hunger strike actions – from July 1-20, 2011 and from Sept. 26 to Oct. 13, 2011. We remain 100% collectively committed today!

We have kept our word, while patiently waiting for the CDCR to keep theirs. However, at this point, it is clear to us that the CDCR has no intention of implementing the substantive policy changes that were agreed to fifteen or sixteen months ago. Based on their highly touted "Security Threat Group" proposals [March and June 2012], and the much hyped "STG Pilot Program" [October 11, 2012], the CDCR has clearly demonstrated their bad faith; because their alleged changes to the policies/practices at issue are a sham.

In reality, the proposed changes will greatly expand upon the number of prisoners who will be subjected to long-term isolation in torture cells. All the above is detailed in our written Rejection/Oppositions to the March and June proposals, as well as the Oct. 11, 2012 Pilot Program. (See them at: http://www.prisonart.org/images/!Newsletter/Rock2_1 and at: http://www.prisonart.org/images/!Newsletter/Rock1_2. The entire Pilot Program is at: http://www.sfbayview.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/CDCR's-Oct.-11-2012-Security-Threat- Group-Pilot-Program.pdf.)

Therefore, based on the CDCR's failure to meaningfully address our Five (5) Core Demands, we presently have no available alternative avenues to obtain the long overdue changes, in a timely manner, other than giving the CDCR until July 8, 2013 – as a deadline – to meet our stated demands.

Failure to come to a legally enforceable agreement will be deemed as just cause for us to resume our indefinite, nonviolent, peaceful protest action(s) until the changes are made. …Thus, the CDCR's empty promise to effect such changes is not acceptable.

http://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com

ASIA'S UNKNOWN UPRISINGS

Reviewed by Michael Novick, ARA-LA/PART

Asia's Unknown Uprisings: Volume 1 – South Korean Social Movements in the 20th Century Volume 2: People Power in the Philippines, Burma, Tibet, China, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Thailand and Indonesia by George Katsiaficas PM Press, PO Box 23912, Oakland CA 94623, 2012, 2013, $28.95 ea.

Katsiaficas's history of South Korea's "long 20th Century" of rebellions (from the Farmers' War of 1894 to the 2008 candle-light protests of over a million Koreans, ignited by teen girls protesting the import of US beef) is must reading. It's well-sourced, clear, and fascinating about the role of South Korea's lumpen including gang members and sex workers, its farmers, youth and women, as well as factory and office workers, in repeated mass clashes with the puppet regime and the U.S.

That they're "unknown" in the US, which waged war in Korea and occupied half the country, preventing its reunification, is a measure of the Euro-centrism that plagues the US left. Many Asian societies paid close attention as lessons were paid for with blood, and emulated them with great success. Does a reluctance to make sacrifices or shed blood for freedom explain why people here paid so little attention?

I remember the Korean War. I studied the North Korean concept of juche (self-reliance) when the Black Panthers popularized it. I was aware of the Gwangju Uprising, and more recently the struggle of Jeju Island against turning their home into a US base. Yet I found 98% of the information about the duration, extent and militance of the South Korean struggles eye-opening. They're valuable source material on autonomous anti-imperialist struggles under occupation and dictatorship. Alongside han – the Koreans' sense of sadness and unavenged oppression – Katsiaficas explicates hallyu – a Korean wave of robust civil society relationships and human-centered values – with great currency in Asia, Africa, Latin America and even the US.

I can't do justice to 400+ pages (let alone its sequel, which reviews struggles in another nine Asian countries) in a few paragraphs. My purpose is to send you to the source to read and consider it yourself, and to commend PM Press for printing the books. Volume One covers South Korea's own struggles, as the "Asian pivot" of US imperialism under Obama has put the Empire's cross-hairs on Korea and China. Katsiaficas critiques academic histories that deny the agency of the Korean masses. He documents anti-Americanism among South Koreans, the result of atrocities, occupation, imposed dictatorship, and unleashing military repression (including by "human rights" paragon Jimmy Carter). S. Korea convicted two of its ex-presidents of capital crimes.

Katsiaficas uses the Korean example to illuminate the importance of uprisings and their transformative impact on people's collective consciousness and practice. He shows the intelligence and sacrifice of ordinary people. He examines the connection among economic, political and social struggles, looks at autonomous organizing among women and industrial workers, the ability to function from clandestinity under dictators, and the contributions of ethnic minorities and lumpen. He's alert to the consequences of failing to carry through to victory, as the Empire can turn partial popular victories into mechanisms for intensified exploitation. He casts new light on neo-liberalism in Korea and globally.

I wish he'd provided more detail on the consequences of divisions. Two tendencies competed for dominance, the NL (national liberation) and PD (people's democracy) factions. He summarizes the main points of disagreement about the nature of South Korea, and its relationship to the North (while both favor reunification, NL identified closely with juche and the DPRK [North Korea]). They disagreed about their main enemy (is it US imperialism or the bourgeoisie, including Korea's own?). This weakened revolutionary forces, allowing pro-U.S., pro-capitalist politicians like Kim Dae Jung and Kim Young Sam, to take office once free elections were won. What were the errors of either or both positions? What synthesis might develop to re-ignite struggle in confronting economic contraction, a new right government, and the renewed threat of war in Korea?

When uprisings fail to reach their revolutionary goals, they seem to clear the way for deeper exploitation, through a combination of physical repression and the development of non-governmental organizations. Along with electoral politics, these reintegrate some "leaders" and demoralize the mass struggle. Katsiaficas is strong about the contribution of uprisings in forming a commune, and a communally conscious proletariat that involves women, lumpen and the urban poor. He is less clear (given the lack of examples of successful thorough-going anti-capitalist revolutions) about what else is essential. Nepal in volume 2 gives a hint, where mass uprisings were defended by armed popular forces committed to people's war.

Let the book whet your appetite for study of Korean movements, and help arm us against US occupation and war-mongering. If it provokes your own thinking about what elements within US society provide a basis for uprisings and revolutionary insurgency, it'll have great practical application. If it lays the basis for study and struggle about what it will take to replace imperialism with a humane and sustainable way of life, it will fulfill Katsiaficas's purpose.

NO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON RACIST MURDER

by Anti-Racist Action

July 4th marks the 15th anniversary of the ambush assassinations by nazi boneheads in Las Vegas NV of Daniel Shersty and Lin "Spit" Newborn, two members of Anti-Racist Action. On November 1, 2013 in Vegas, Melissa Hack, Ross Hack, and Leland Jones go on trial for killing Spit and Dan. ARA's calling for antifa to pack the courtroom to support Shersty, Newborn and their families. Though we as a network don't seek justice via cops or courts, our presence is important. We must let the families know their sons didn't die in vain, and show that antifascists are here and will be here fighting racism, fascism, and bigotry until we win.

Why has it taken 15 years to put these suspected assassins on trial? We know 38 different sets of bootprints were found at the scene of the killing. John Butler, one of the boneheads involved, was caught with one of two murder weapons. He was convicted over 10 years ago. Melissa Hack was named at his trial, and video evidence of her being party to the murder was presented. She was arrested for drug trafficking and sentenced to 15 years in prison in 2001, yet she served only 4. We suspect it's because of her utility as an informant to the feds. Ross Hack was allowed to flee to Europe on a false passport.

But there's more to it. In 1998, ARA identified the killings as political assassinations of anti-racists by neo-nazis. We denounced reports that portrayed it as some kind of "gang rumble" between "opposing skinhead factions." We sent members to Las Vegas, marched on the Strip, and organized protection and defense of other anti-racists in Las Vegas. We explained who Spit and Dan were; one a father and tattoo artist, the other an active-duty member of the Air Force – committed anti-racists building a culture of solidarity and resistance. Their deaths should've been a rallying point for anyone concerned about racist violence, producing outrage against the nazis and solidarity with families and comrades.

Unfortunately, from that day to this, ARA's been virtually alone in identifying the killings for what they were, a cowardly version of the 1979 Greensboro killings of anti-Klan activists by a nazi-Klan coalition, with similar levels of impunity. Military investigators dropped the probe of Dan's murder as soon as they decided it wasn't "terrorism" against a service-member; but in fact it was an act of racist terror! Law enforcement made it clear our lives had no value to them. This was reinforced by groups like the Southern Poverty Law Center and Anti-Defamation League, who lump militant anti-racists into the same gunny-sack with nazis, defining both as extremists or gangsters.

Unbelievably, 15 years later, when the trial provides the possibility of shining the light of day on some nazi killers and their long free ride, SPLC is back at it. They ran a long article in "Intelligence Report," directed at law enforcement agencies, equating antifascists and nazis. The article begins: "[B]oneheads call [antifa] 'race traitors'… politically correct scum who pretend to be tolerant yet are quick … to resort to violence and throw a 'boot party' for an unsuspecting fascist dumb enough to wander solo into the wrong punk show with his swastikas showing. A boot party is a beating with as much kicking, using steel-toed boots, as possible before the cops arrive." In the same issue is a sidebar with "tips for law enforcement on how to deal with anti-fascists." We and our presence in opposition to open nazi organizing are a problem for the cops. Among the tips: "restrict counter-protesters to a specific area only as close … as legally required.... Offer to bus hate group members to the … location."

It's time for sincere anti-racists to take a stand alongside ARA and denounce such measures as violations of our human right to speak out. Organize in your community against racism and fascism. Communicate with your nearest ARA chapter or affiliate and join us on Oct. 18-20 in Lafayette IN at the annual ARA Network gathering. If you can't come to Vegas Nov. 1, organize an event in your area. What ARA has summed up is that we can't rely on the cops or courts (or the NGOs that front for them). We need to defend ourselves and our communities against racist and fascist violence.

SAVE THE DATE: 25TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING AWARDS DINNER DEC 7

We will be holding a 25th anniversary Turning the Tide fundraising awards dinner, hopefully the first in a new annual tradition for our second quarter century. We will be publishing a commemorative book with ads and good wishes and content from the "best of" 25 years of Turning the Tide since 1988. We will also be presenting a number of awards, focused on people of European descent who have contributed to anti-racist struggles. The event will include a buffet dinner, a musical performance, and the awards presentation, including remarks by the honorees. Michael Novick, founder of Turning the Tide, will serve as the MC.

There will be four awards, each going to two or more people, because we think anti-racist struggle is collective and multi-generational struggle. The awards are: the Adrienne Rich Culture of Resistance and Liberation award; the Sarah & Angelina Grimke Anti-Racist Communicators award; the Dorothy Day Feeding the Hungry Award; and the Rose Friedman Working People's Survival award.

Adrienne Rich, who passed away last year, was a poet who exemplified opposition to oppression and hypocrisy, and collective efforts for liberation. Rich won the National Book Award in 1974 for her often angry, feminist and anti-war poetry, and accepted the award on behalf of all women. Learn more at: http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/49#sthash.vEmsNwdw.dpuf.

Sarah and Angelina Grimke were radical abolitionist organizers and speakers from South Carolina before the Civil War, who sought to eliminate not only slavery but also racial discrimination, and who fought for women's rights as well. For more, see: http://womenshistory.about.com/od/racialjustice/a/Sarah-Moore-Grimkandeacute.htm

Dorothy Day was a founder of the radical Catholic Worker movement, who believed that all states were inherently totalitarian. The Catholic Worker movement continues to combine direct aid for the poor and homeless with nonviolent direct action on their behalf. Learn more at http://www.catholicworker.org/dorothyday/ddbiographytext.cfm?Number=72

Rose Friedman was the great-aunt of TTT editor and founder Michael Novick. She died, at age 18, (before Novick's mother was born) in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York in 1911.

We still need many resources to make this successful, including a musical performer, catering, a favorable venue preferably in Hollywood or on the west side of Los Angeles, as well as volunteers. We will be posting more information in the next issue, including about the commemorative ad book.

for more info on how to particpate, email TTT @ **antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com**

ISC GUIDING PRINCIPLES

People from all communities who are seriously committed to revolutionary change are invited to be a part of the Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee

The Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee was initiated by the Black Riders, and provides a mechanism to bridge the gap between ideological and cultural differences to build a united Left capable of defending against and smashing Fascism. These principles are a work in progress. We are sharing them for feedback and to help build a united front.

1. We fight for total economic, social, political, ecological and personal justice and liberation from all forms of exploitation and oppression. We fight for revolution and a classless, egalitarian society.

The current system must be dismantled and replaced with a society and economy that meets authentic human needs, preserves and protects cultural diversity, and restores the ecology of the planet. The exploitative, oppressive power of the empire, state and corporations must be replaced with the creative, generative power of the people. Our goal is not reform of the existing system; it is the complete elimination of oppression and exploitation of people by people and of the rest of nature by humans. In their place we will build an environmentally sustainable system of mutual aid and benefit.

This necessarily commits us to confrontational politics. We are in direct conflict with the rulers, oppressors and exploiters and their dog-eat-dog ideology, the racist, white supremacist, hierarchical thinking of the imperialist ruling class. This puts us in a struggle with the state, corporations, their support systems, and the conditions of poverty and environmental devastation they create. We oppose capitalism, racism, colonialism, imperialism, sexism, mass incarceration and other systems and methods of oppression and exploitation - whether they manifest themselves explicitly or implicitly - because they are based in and require the subjugation of the vast majority of humanity and the devastation of the planet. The exploiters need us, but we don't need them.

2. We believe in self-governance, self-defense, and self-determination.

People have the human right to food, housing, health care, education, meaningful work, and the maintenance and enhancement of their cultural integrity. We recognize the right of oppressed and colonized people to determine collectively their own destiny, and their own methods and timetable of struggle. Such groups include Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other people of non-European descent, women, currently and formerly incarcerated people, the proletariat, lumpen proletariat, and the "precariat" (of temporary, part-time and under-employed people), sex workers, undocumented people, trans people, people who are not heterosexual or hetero-normative, and other religious, cultural, and ethnic groups.

We support self-defense strategies that resist state violence, upholding the right to use the same weapons that the police, military, reactionaries and mercenaries use to enact such violence and enforce such oppression and exploitation. We recognize and uphold the fact that people have a natural and Constitutional right to bear arms, and believe that people can and must arm themselves and train in the effective, ethical use of all means to defend themselves. Historically in the US, armament has been reserved for white settlers and the state; "gun control" didn't become an issue until Black people began to arm themselves in self-defense.

3. We are building an internationalist, inter-communal United Front against a common enemy.

We are building a united front across ideological, religious, national and ethnic/racial lines. The dominant system is strong, and the only way to enact radical change is through solidarity and shared purpose. The Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee is one component or mechanism in a larger process of unification of the oppressed, including a Black united front, Black-Brown unity, and anti-colonial solidarity across national and cultural lines among all working and oppressed people. We will counter the reactionary inter-communalism of the empire with the revolutionary inter-communalism of the people.

Capitalism in Amerika is a global system, leeching wealth from the whole planet, and there are oppressed and colonized nations within the United States itself. Supporting international allies is vital; each tentacle of imperialism torn off is a positive thing for those struggling against the ruling class in Amerika, and whatever we do to undermine the fascist structure here is positive for the whole planet and its people. The global 99% are primarily outside the U.S., billions living in poverty to feed the Empire. We oppose all imperialist wars, interventions and occupations, especially the "war on terror" that stigmatizes Muslims, whistle-blowers and radicals as "terrorists," and is used to justify mass murder, torture and violations of fundamental human rights. We uphold freedom of conscience and faith. We do not accept imperialist propaganda, but make our own strategic decisions about who are our friends and who are our enemies, based on a concrete class analysis of imperialism and of other social forces. We have much to learn from others' struggles, including the Zapatistas, the Palestinians, the Cubans, the Haitians, the Congolese, and others struggling and resisting around the globe.

This is not simply about a diversity of tactics, it is about strategic decisions and a theoretical and political orientation towards the abolition of class society in its entirety. We will fight for immediate survival and day-to-day human needs, but we do so understanding that we are not about reforming the existing system. A united front gives us strength by fighting alongside each other, overcoming divide-and-conquer tactics, complementing our strengths and overcoming our weaknesses in a common struggle. A united front does not deny our differences, but allows us to struggle together without compromising our principles.

We need to put aside self-defeating internecine battles over religious, tribal or other divisions that only serve the oppressor. We want to unite all who can be united for the greater good and liberation of all humanity and the protection of the planetary eco-system that sustains life. To do so, we engage with the everyday survival struggles of oppressed and exploited people around cops, prisons, jobs, schools, housing, childcare, health care, clean air, food, and water, transportation, land and every other aspect of life, because the capitalist empire manifests itself and its destructive contradictions in every facet of human existence.

4. We believe in community self-empowerment and building at the base.

Revolutionary change must spring from local communities, especially those communities located in areas with the highest concentrations of poverty and state oppression. We support proactive programs that facilitate self-empowerment, the creation of community leaders, and grass-roots organization. We do not support charity services because they seek to engender a culture of dependency. We are creating programs that educate and awaken people in the communities to their own power and capacity to meet their own needs and build a new world. Our programs are not charity but mutual aid – they prefigure the kind of world we are building.

We are building a culture of resistance and liberation, of interdependence, solidarity and mutual aid. This requires revolutionary leadership among Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Asian communities and from white comrades who will work to develop a base for anti-racist revolutionary struggle among people of European descent. So-called "white allies" cannot be supposedly exceptional individuals who attach themselves to the struggles of other oppressed people, but effective community organizers identifying sectors among people of European descent prepared to struggle for liberation against the empire and the exploiters.

5. We believe in study, learning, criticism and self-criticism, self-discipline, accountability, and the development of every member's wellness and revolutionary potential.

Our personal lives must mirror our political ideals, and we will eradicate from our mental and emotional makeup all forms of sexism, classism, racism, colonialism, ageism, able-ism, imperialism, and the penetration of private property relations into the most intimate aspects our lives. We need to restore or create forms of family relations that enhance our capacity to survive, resist and express ourselves fully and freely. We challenge ourselves and our comrades to do the same, to help us in this task, and to accept and offer criticism. Self-criticism is also vital: the critical revolutionary transformation, or as some would put it, the greatest "jihad," or spiritual struggle, is within oneself, to remove white supremacy and capitalist values and replace them with the spirit of solidarity and sharing. This approach enables us to engage with and educate others as well as fellow strugglers, not as condescending saviors or holier-than-thou know-it-alls.

We have all developed within a system that strives constantly to break us to suit and serve its own needs, but that system inevitably produces its own antagonists and pallbearers. We need to replace the oppressive ideals and world-view we have internalized with inter-communal ideals that we choose through study, analysis, struggle and practice. The class struggle goes on not only between but also within classes and within individuals. We must overcome internalized white and male supremacy, elitism, neo-colonialism, passivity, and other forms of identification with the oppressor. In their place we will create new standards of cooperation, self-determination, well being and development to our fullest capacities. We have reciprocal responsibilities to each other for healing, education, and growth as revolutionary comrades.

ISC PROGRAM UPDATES

Break The Lock

Break the Lock is an Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee program, dedicated to providing revolutionary literature to the incarcerated, securing transportation for families to visit their loved ones, and archiving, digitizing and publishing prisoner correspondence, until we have destroyed the cages for good.

Last month Break the Lock set up an installation of prisoner letters and art at the Conference on Cruelty at the University of Southern California. We raised enough funds to contact 300 incarcerated comrades with a letter from General T.A.C.O., information on Books-to-Prison programs nationwide, and revolutionary reading material. At the time of this printing, we are prepping for our table at the ToDo Fest in Riverside, CA, and getting ready for a fundraiser/birthday party for comrade Amari Shakur, the BRLP's Captain of Information.

Please contact us if you are interested in rideshare, carpool, and transportation to jails and prisons in the Southern California area. If you have a ride to offer or need a ride, we want to hear from you.

Find us online: tideturning.org/breakthelock.
Call us: (323) 834-2720
Email us: breakthelockproject@gmail.com
Write to us:
Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee
PO Box 8297
Los Angeles, CA 90008

George Jackson Freedom School

On April 21, 2013, the Black Riders were honered by Kathleen Cleaver, Elder Freeman, and other elders from the original Black Panther party, for continueing to boldly lead the struggle for black liberation and armed revolution.

On July 15, the Black Riders are beginning the George Jackson Freedom School, an after school program for children, at Chuco's Justice Center in Inglewood, CA. If you want to donate funds, school supplies, or involve your children, please call (323) 289-4457.

Hood Health

Hood Health was initiated by the Black Riders and former members of Occupy Wellness as the first program of the Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee. Immediate goals were identifying the health needs and capacities of the community. Long range goals are establishing a people's clinic and eventually a people's hospital, both incorporating traditional, non-Western, herbal and holistic healing methods.

In the last few weeks, Hood Health has identified four action areas and begun discussing issues of perspective, capacity and implementation. These are: Forum/Pop-up Clinic; Communal Garden/Kitchen Project; Grassroots Campaign to Defend and Radically Improve Public Health; and a Community Disaster Preparedness Campaign.

THE BLACK COMMUNE PROGRAM

We Ride for the Black Commune Program because it is what we want and believe. A Black commune is a Black community built on the belief of sharing and mutual cooperation between all people of that community which brings forth unity. What is mine is yours and what is yours is mine, or "I am because we are; and because we are, therefore, I am." This is a belief system that Black people have held since the beginning of human existence. It allowed us to ride out any storm in perfect unity. This is the type of Black community that we ride for.

A. We Ride for total liberation. We Ride for power to take full control of the destiny of our Black community. We will not be liberated and free from oppression until we take full control of our destiny.

B. We Ride to put a stop to the thievery by capitalists of our Black community. We Ride because the racist government has stole from us, and now we demand the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules was promised over 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of Black people. We will accept the payment in currency, which will be distributed, to our communities. The Amerikkkan racist has taken part in the slaughter of over 50 million Black people, therefore, We Ride to make sure we receive complete payment.

C. We Ride for maximum and complete employment for our people. We Ride because the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every person employment or a guaranteed income. We Ride because we believe that if the Amerikkkan businessmen will not give full employment, then the means of production should be taken from the businessmen, placed in the community, and communized. That way, the people of the community can organize and employ its entire people and give a high standard of living.

D. We Ride for freedom of speech. We Ride because we believe that all attacks on social redeeming hip hop rap songs should stop. The 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives a right to freedom of speech. During chattel slavery, the Black spirituals provided us songs with social redeeming qualities. Today's hip hop raps provide us songs with social redeeming qualities because conscious rappers help to guide us to liberation by outlining the horrible plight that Black people suffer in this new era of crisis.

E. We Ride because we demand the cases of all black people held captive in the jails and prisons of Amerikkka re-opened, re-investigated, and re-tried by members of the Black community. We Ride because we feel that Black people living in incarceration have been tried unfairly by the U.S. Justice Department. We have been denied the right of trial by one's peers resulting in guilty verdicts for an enormous amount of innocent Black people. We have been and are being tried by juries that have no understanding of the "average reasoning man" of the Black community. It is time that these cases be re-opened and re-tried by Black people so that the innocence of Black inmates can be determined by a jury of their peers, as stated in the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. We as Black people shall then deal with our own people by granting freedom from incarceration to those whose re-trial has validated it, and deferring charges and sentences for those proven to be guilty by their peers. We want amnesty for all Political Prisoners.

F. We Ride for decent housing fit for shelter of human beings. We Ride because we believe that if the capitalists landlords will not give decent housing to our Black community then the housing and land should be made into a communal so that our community, with government aid, can build and make housing for its people.

G. We Ride for education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent Amerikkkan society. We Ride for education that teaches us our true history and our role in present day society. We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If a man does not have knowledge of himself and his position in society and the world, then he has little chance to relate to anything else.

H. We Ride for an end to the drug problem. We Ride because we demand all the files of the Iran/Contra hearings, and information regarding aid to the Contras in Nicaragua, be released to the Black community. This should be done to determine the connection between the government and the influx of drugs into the Black community during the 1970's and 1980's. Black people neither own airplanes or manufacturing plants needed to produce and distribute drugs. We believe that the best way to solve the drug problem is to find out how it is entering our community so we can put a stop to it.

I. We Ride for all Black people to be exempt from military service. We Ride because we believe that Black people should not be put in financial deprivation, causing them to be forced to fight in the military service to defend a racist government that does not protect us. We will not fight and kill other people of color in the world who, like Black people, are being victimized by the racist government of Amerikkka. We will protect ourselves from the force and violence of the racist military by whatever means necessary.

J. We Ride for an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of Black people. We Ride because we believe we can end police brutality in our Black community by organizing Black self-defense groups dedicated to defending our Black community from racist police oppression and brutality. The 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives a right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all Black people should arm themselves for self-defense.

K. We Ride for full medical attention that should be given to all Black people. We Ride because we believe that Amerikkkan capitalist economics is to blame for the high rates of disease in the Black community. Black people suffering from life threatening ailments like AIDS should no longer be left to the mercy of low budget county hospitals. For whatever illness any member of the Black community suffers, the federal government is obligated to send them to medical institutions that provide the best treatment.

L. We Ride for an end to environmental racism and to stop the disruption of the earth's ecological balance. We Ride because we believe that Amerikkkan industrial production has and is currently creating terrible environmental side effects locally, nationally, and internationally -- especially in areas where Black people live. Industrial production causes pollution of air, land, and water, which in turn lowers the life expectancy of people. If the racist Amerikkkan industrialists sought out technology to further industry then he must seek out technology to protect the environment. If the racist U.S. industrialists refuse to do so then his industry should be taken and placed in the Black community so that we can protect the environment and our own communities.

M. We Ride for land, technology, bread, housing, education, clothing, medical care, justice, peace, and an end to environmental racism. When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the government. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government; laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpation, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government and to provide new guards for their future security.

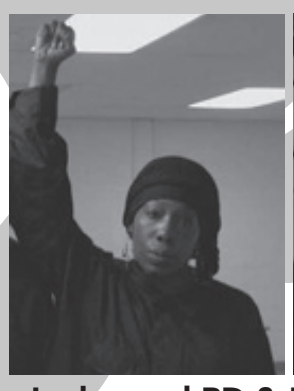
HANDS OFF AFRICA MOVEMENT

Withdraw All Racist US/NATO Forces from Africa!
Hands Off the Sons & Daughters of Africa!

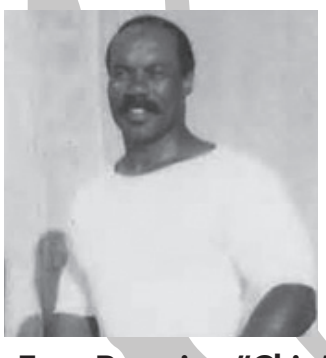
Hands Off Africa Event
SoCal Library
6120 S. Vermont
Sat, July 20,
1:00-5:00 pm

Pack the Inglewood Courthouse
One Regent Street
Wed, July 31, 8:30 am
1 Block S. of Florence Between LaBrea and Fir

CIA & FBI - Hands Off
Assata Shakur and Cuba!



Inglewood PD & LAPD - Hands Off
Mecca & Etana Shakur and the Black Riders



Free Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald of BPP, Hugo Pinell & SHU hunger strikers, Ruchell Magee of the Marin Courthouse Rebellion, Russell Maroon Shoatz and all Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War! All Power to the People!

Join the campaign launched by The Black Riders Liberation Party, new generation Black Panthers (323) 289-4457 blackriders1996@gmail.com. Endorsed by the Council of Ujima and the InterCommunal Solidarity Committee

BOOKS TO PRISONER PROGRAMS

Contact These Programs to Receive Literature or to Donate or Volunteer

PRISON LIBRARY PROJECT
c/o The Claremont Forum
586 West First Street,
Claremont, CA 91711

The Prison Library Project's mission is to provide free reading materials to inmates nationwide. We prioritize educational and self-help literature as well as recognize the value of literacy development through active engagement with books in general. The PLP offers services to a wide range of communities within the prison system: librarians, chaplains, drug/alcohol recovery groups, domestic abuse and HIV/AIDS support groups and others. Our goal is to promote literacy, personal responsibility, reflection, and growth.

We openly invite inmates to embrace the PLP's mission and foster a deep appreciation for the world of books, ideas, and education. We hope to help those who receive our materials to learn to take charge of their lives in positive ways and to return to society with new abilities, awareness, and the confidence to contribute to their families and communities in meaningful ways.

The PLP receives nearly 300 letters a week from inmates. We mail over 12,500 packages of books, audio books, and magazines each year to individuals and libraries in 600 state and federal prisons and detention centers throughout the United States. Our weekly postage bill is around $700. Boxes of books are made available to individuals with access to prison libraries or book collections, such as guards, educators and human and health services. We also provide inmates and others with our online Ways and Means Resource List – a compilation of over 200 different service and legal organizations that assist prisoners and those returning to society following incarceration. http://prisonlibraryproject.org/

To request a book, print your FULL NAME, ID NUMBER, ADDRESS, and DATE YOUR LETTER. Include this on the envelope and in the letter itself with your request. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. Let us know if your facility has specific restrictions or requirements for receiving books (examples: paperback books only, maximum number allowed, used books, etc.)

You may only make two requests for books per year. When requesting, please tell us when you last received books from us. Our books are sent via the U.S. Postal Service using the media mail rate. It may take 3–4 months or longer for us to fill a request. We appreciate your patience. If you have not received a book after 6 months, please write us again. We do not provide legal resources.

Please share your experiences and insights about the books you receive. We'd love to hear about how reading and education impact your life while you are incarcerated. These insights and encouragements really help motivate our volunteers and help us share our mission with potential donors. Please share our program with friends and family and encourage them to support the Prison Library Project. Please note that books on business, computers, westerns, large print books, trade skills, dictionaries and Spanish language books are not donated as frequently. It is good to send us alternative topics. We try to make the best match possible with limited selection.

NOTE: If you are soon to be moved to another facility, wait until the move is completed to request books. We have to pay return postage if your package is sent back, since the prison will not forward the package to you.

Restrictions

We do not send books to county jails. We cannot fill requests for true crime or books containing graphic sex or violence.

We are not able to provide invoices with our packages

We do NOT send books to Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, Pennsylvania (except Waymire), Virginia, or Wisconsin.

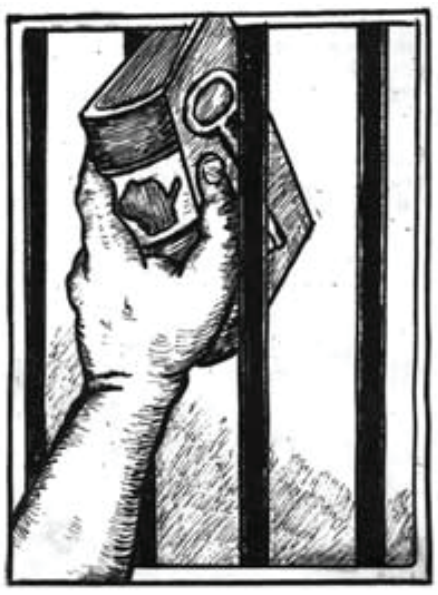
We are UNABLE to serve the following prisons:

In California: Jamestown, Rancho Cucamonga, San Luis Obispo, Santee, Santa Rosa, and Tehachapi.

Other areas: We are unable to send to Angie, LA; Casper, WY; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Jackson, GA; Joliet, IL; La Grange, KY; Marietta, GA; Nashville, NC; Parchman, MS; Pocatello, ID; Raleigh, NC; Salt Lake City, UT; Shirley, MA; Taylorsville, NC; Walla Walla, WA; West Liberty, KY

OTHER BOOKS TO PRISONER PROGRAMS

Please Take Note of Individual Restrictions and Focus



ASHEVILLE PRISON BOOK PROGRAM
67 N. Lexington Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
Books for inmates ONLY in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia or Tennessee

BOOK 'EM
5125 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224
Free books to prisoners. Request by subject. ONLY serving prisoners from PA, VA, and WV. Will serve large-print readers and Native American prisoners from elsewhere as well.

BOOKS THRU BARS
4722 Baltimore Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19143
We provide small packages of books to individual prisoners ONLY in the Mid-Atlantic region (PA, NJ, DE, NY, MD, VA, WV), many of them housed in long-term segregation units.

BOOKS TO PRISONERS C/O LEFT BANK BOOKS
92 Pike St. Box A, Seattle, WA 98101
Free books to prisoners nationwide. Request by subject, no religious materials or legal materials. Donations appreciated. Does NOT ship to prisons that require all books sent to be new.

BOOKS FOR PRISONERS
c/o Groundwork Books, 0323 Student Center, La Jolla CA 92037
Groundwork Books offers up to two books per person, free of charge. Send your request, specifying your interests, and we will send you a detailed booklet for that area of interest. Subjects: politics, spirituality, feminism, dictionaries, culture, social criticism, and select novels. Stamp donations are appreciated but not required.

CALIFORNIA COALITION FOR WOMEN PRISONERS
1540 Market St. Suite 490
San Francisco, CA 94102
SDCCWP sends books to women prisoners on various women's and political issues. Please write to request a free book list. Stamp donations are appreciated to pay for shipping.

CHICAGO BOOKS TO WOMEN IN PRISON
P O Box 14778, Chicago, IL 60614
Chicago Books to Women in Prison is a volunteer collective working to distribute books free of charge to women in prison nationwide. We are dedicated to offering women behind bars the opportunity for self-empowerment, education, and entertainment that reading provides.

THE GRANITE PUBLISHING GROUP
PO Box 1429, Colombus, NC 28722
Inmates may write to receive free books on subjects that support the cultivation of planetary consciousness. The metaphysical-transformational subjects of our books range from Native American spirituality to the extraterrestrial presence. Please send postage if possible.

HUMAN KINDNESS FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 61619, Durham, NC 27715
Sends spiritual books (softcover) free to prisoners, prison workers, and those who cannot afford them.

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT
c/o 12th St. Books
827 W. 12th St., Austin, TX 78701
Sends free books and literature to prisoners in Texas ONLY. Does NOT accept requests for hardcover, Bibles, pulp fiction, or pornography. Send 1 stamp for resource list and newsletter. Accepts artwork donations for their yearly prisoner art show.

LOUISIANA BOOKS 2 PRISONERS
1631 Elysian Fields #117
New Orleans, LA 70117
We currently serve ONLY the Southeastern United States, meaning Alabama, Arkansas, the Carolinas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Tennessee, and the Virginias. Letters from Louisiana and female inmates are given priority, with all other letters answered in the order in which we receive them.

MIDWEST PAGES TO PRISONERS PROJECT
c/o Boxcan Books and Community Center, Inc.
118 S. Rogers, Suite 2,
Bloomington, IN 47404
The Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project is an all-volunteer effort that strives to encourage self-education among prisoners in the United States. By providing free reading materials upon request, we hope to promote rehabilitation and reintegration rather than punishment, and to stimulate critical thinking behind bars.

NYC BOOKS THROUGH BARS
c/o Bluestockings Bookstore
172 Allen St., New York, NY 10002
Free, nationwide, except MI. Specializes in political and history. Also literary fiction and other educational books. No religion books.

PORTLAND BOOKS TO PRISONERS
P.O. Box 11222, Portland, OR 97211
Sends free books to prisoners nationwide.

PRISON BOOK COLLECTIVE
405 W. Franklin St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
Sends books ONLY to AL, MS, and some prisons in NC.

PRISON BOOK PROGRAM
c/o Lucy Parsons Bookstore
1306 Hancock St., Suite 100
Quincy, MA 02169
Does NOT send books to CA, MA, MD, MI, PA, KY, LA, NV or TX. No computer books, horror, romance, textbooks, true crime, or white supremacist materials. Publishes the National Prisoner Resource List (free to prisoners nationwide) and resource list for LGBTQ prisoners. Can be delayed up to 5-7 months.

WOMEN'S PRISON BOOK PROJECT
c/o Boneshaker Books
2002 23rd AVE. S,
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Provides women and transgender-identified persons in prison with free reading materials

DC BOOKS TO PRISONERS
PO Box 34190,
Washington, DC 20043-4190
Yearly, we send out close to 4,000 packages containing over 10,000 books to prisoners around the country, to prisoners in 150 different prisons in all 50 states.

WORDS AS BORDERS, WORDS AS ACTIONS, ACTIONS AS PROCESS

by an **Asian illegal alien**

When I was younger, I tried to play with the words "illegal alien" because they'd prick me deep, made me feel non-human. I played dumb, "I'm an illegal alien from outer space." I'd think up justifications against my illegality, "I'm not a criminal. I arrived on a visa that expired, and that's a civil violation." It justified me, but didn't give much compassion to others, nor address the criminality imposed on oppressed nationalities under white supremacy.

James Yaki Sayles says in his book Meditations on Frantz Fanon's Wretched of the Earth:

Aponte's previous violations of the colonialist state's law were violations of an individual, for personal gain. But more important, they were seen by him …as true "violations of law" because the "law" and the state it upheld were still recognized by Aponte as legitimate. He was a "criminal" because he still saw himself as [one] within the definition … of colonialist oppression. This is an aspect of the "criminal" and colonial mentality: …acceptance of legitimacy of colonial rule; …to feel the colonial state has a right to rule over the colonized.

Thus, part of my praxis has been learning to recognize and reject legitimacy of imperialist white-supremacist capitalist hetero-patriarchal rule. To be "undocumented" is a legal construct on paper that has defined the condition of certain people in order to regulate them. To be "undocumented and unafraid" is a rejection of dehumanization, but begs the question: isn't it still identifying as a piece of text? "Illegal," "unauthorized," and "undocumented" all imply there are those with legality, authorization, or documents. They're ill-defining words, imposed to put people in a position of invalidation without power.

I feel I can now use the words "illegal alien" with ease because I've rejected their legitimacy. Perhaps I'm a "illegal" by US law, but what of it when I don't accept the legitimacy of the US government? I'm still in the process of considering terms that don't function to dis-empower migrants, something like "sovereign migrant" or "oppressed transnational."

I tenuously call myself an "unauthorized immigrant," though it isn't entirely satisfactory, for convenience. I find the widely-used term "undocumented immigrant" less satisfactory, as it alludes to a shallow analysis and leads to advocacy for migrants that is just as depthless. Migration doesn't occur in a vacuum. It's a direct effect of US imperialism, but that's rarely discussed by immigration advocacy groups, due to a heavy focus on a supposedly monolithic struggle of the "undocumented." When you address this mythical group, you can only focus on trying to "document the undocumented." It's about earning documents, which is apolitical and pacified, as if one could lose one's documents on the train and become undocumented. The purported solution to "undocumented immigration" is then "legalization."

Advocating for legalization is advocacy for further legitimizing US citizenship and whiteness, and not actual advocacy for migrants. There's a limited symbolic fight for relief of the restrictions that are unique to unauthorized immigrants, such as stopping deportations or "earning" access to education and healthcare. A more dominating narrative considers unauthorized immigrants as not deserving basic human necessities until they earn access to the status of citizenship, and the possibility of a minute kind of humanization and mobility. Migrants aren't considered worthy of human dignity without government authorization. And we must note, the notion of US citizenship is historically linked to whiteness.

Untitled Painting © Malik Seneferu www.maliksart.com

I'm brought to the word "unauthorized." I prefer this, as it implies something deeper: an exchange of power. Who's unauthorized, who's authorized, and who has the authority to issue that? It'd be a popular conclusion that the US government has the authority to issue that authorization, which is problematic when you consider settler colonialism. The distinctions of being a citizen, legal resident, visa-holder, or unauthorized immigrant are based on distinctions set by the settler-colonialist government. Accepting these distinctions can be considered a small act of participation in viewing the authority of the US as more legitimate than the authority of the Indigenous peoples of these lands.

I'm not saying people should renounce their US citizenship, as I don't know to what benefit that would be. I think the valuation of being considered here "legally" ignores that we all participate to various extents in ongoing settler colonialism. In my understanding, Indigenous peoples can thus be placed in an unfair, uncomfortable dialogue around immigration. They're either implicated with racists who don't want oppressed nationalities migrating to this land, or with shallow, sometimes harmful, pro-migrant agendas that don't consider the ongoing colonization they're facing. Their struggles are usually made visible only as a punch line to an immigration joke.

I've used the word "earn" several times, that people are expected to "earn" access. This alludes to an on-going reform-centered trend in the current "immigration movement," that bases its strength on treating everybody as "model-minorities." There's the federal DREAM Act, which would give a path to citizenship for young people who dedicate their time to college or the military. The argument is that the beneficiaries would be young, assimilated, brought to the US as youth with no knowledge or accountability, "Americans" for all intents and purposes, and willing to be upwardly mobile. The potential beneficiaries of the DREAM Act call themselves DREAMers.

A problem I have with nomenclature, naming things, is that it can lead to exclusion. Once a group is formed and authenticated, it creates an excluded group of the inauthentic. DREAMers have taken up the mantle, unconsciously or not, as the model minority among unauthorized immigrants; the "most deserving." This fuels the fire against other unauthorized immigrants who may not be young, not culturally American, had knowledge and accountability in coming to the US, or can't be upwardly mobile.

A similar narrative is applied to day laborers. They're doing the jobs "nobody else is willing to do," and deserve to be here for their hard work. There are legal immigrants against immigration reform because they've earned their legality by working hard to do everything the proper way, and "all of these illegals should do everything the right way like I did, and get in the back of the line." This narrative, attempting to play to people's sympathies and their capitalist notions of value, creates divisive stratification. There's no consideration of how detrimental the white construction of "upward mobility" and assimilation has been to oppressed communities, or how people with disabilities have the right to not work and contribute what they are able.

The division delves deeper than just civic considerations when the racial context is considered. When Indigenous peoples are either invisible or a punch line, and when non-Black oppressed nationalities maintain that they deserve to be in the US due to their "work ethic," well, compared to whom? There's an implicit anti-Black sentiment to this narrative. Black people are to be considered as "not working hard enough." Further, when global anti-Blackness is perpetuated by the First World, when Black people are not considered human beings, what does it mean to consider oneself a human being and to fight for "migrant rights as human rights?" Non-Black oppressed nationalities must be mindful of the ways they have positioned themselves, without critical thought, against Blackness.

So, if current immigration advocacy is not necessarily advocacy for migrant rights, if it's divisive, anti-Black, doesn't recognize Indigenous sovereignty, and is not conducive to any transformative change, then what can be done? Organizing for migrant rights is dominated by reform-oriented groups, so there has to be mobilization with a radical understanding of migration. We need to develop different frameworks on how migration should be addressed.

A radical narrative for migrant rights should focus on de-legitimizing the "authority" of the US, especially as active allies to Indigenous peoples and communities. We should look at migration as a community issue. Regardless of whether one is present in the US with authorization, the issue of migration is part of your struggle. Control of migration to the US has long been used as a tool of repression against oppressed nationalities. US imperialism and colonialism triggers migratory patterns. Then, the immigration system is used by the state to cope with migrants as surplus populations. There's no neighborhood of unauthorized immigrants ICE goes to raid; they raid communities of oppressed nationalities. Like the Prison Industrial Complex, the immigration system is used to criminalize, regulate, and imprison oppressed nationalities for population control and profit. As the Prison Industrial Complex and the Immigration Industrial Complex are tools of regulation used concurrently against oppressed nationalities, mobilization against both also has to go hand-in-hand.

There have to be efforts toward decolonizing love and our emotions, mind, and body. Theoretically, family functions as the smallest form of the state. Mothers are, unfortunately, agents of the state in how they're used to regulate their children, the future population. That's one reason patriarchal violence is enacted against women of oppressed nationalities and their bodies. Historically, the existence of families, friendships, relationships are inconvenient to the US and its regulation of oppressed nationalities. The narratives of families who are separated by imprisonment and deportation are made invisible because such humanization is of no benefit to the state.

Love is a rebellion against dehumanization and oppression. The process of self-love as oppressed peoples means denying everything that has been taught to us. We've been brought to hate and be distrustful of ourselves, our bodies, and our peoples. As Audre Lorde said, "Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it's self-preservation, and that's an act of political warfare." I'd like to end with definitions of Han, a Korean cultural concept of collective oppression. I hope that by defining how illnesses are manifested as interconnected among emotions, mind, and body, we may be able to manifest holistic methods of approaching and decolonizing wellness and love:

We...were born from the womb of Han and brought up in Han.

Han is sorrow caused by heavy suffering, injustice or persecution, a dull lingering ache in the soul. It's a blend of sorrow and resentment... Han is imbued with resignation, bitter acceptance and a determination to wait until vengeance can be achieved.

Han is passive. It yearns for vengeance, but doesn't seek it. Han is held close to the heart, hoping and patient, never aggressive. It becomes part of the blood and breath of a person. There's a sense of lamentation and …reproach toward the destiny that led to such misery.

Someone who dies of han is said to have died of hwabyeong.

Sign of the Crimes

by Tammy J. Higgins

Today I stole some copper
Do you know how much that stuff's worth?
I worked in the rain yesterday
Hey, my girl Shorty's about to give birth.

I sold some Oxycontin
You gotta do what you gotta do
I bought some eggs and Ramen noodles
Got some Robitussin for the flu

I'm a blue collar criminal
Who isn't at McD's, The King or Daves
B & E is risky for my future
But so is minimum wage

A JOURNAL OF ANTI-RACIST ACTION, RESEARCH & EDUCATION

TURNING THE TIDE

Volume 26 ★ Number 4 ★ ISSN 1082-6491 ★ October - December 2013

Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror ★ PO Box 1055, Culver City, CA 90232 ★ antiracist.org ★ tideturning.org

Historic March to the Compton City Hall for Black and Brown Unity! Black Riders - New Generation Black Panthers reconnects with the National Brown Berets.

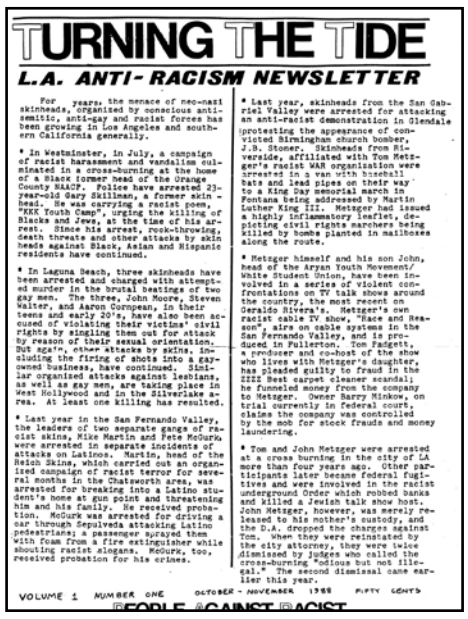
IN THIS ISSUE

★ Mexican Teacher Strike
★ **Sex Work** and Liberatory Politics
★ Mumia Abu-Jamal on **Trayvon Martin**
★ Native Americans, Anti-Fa Chase Nazis in North Dakota
★ Reviews: **"Orange is the New Black"** & **"Red Army Faction"**

SAVE THE DATE: DEC 7

TURNING THE TIDE ANTI-RACIST AWARDS EVENT

A quarter-century ago, in the fall of 1988, the first issue of ***Turning the Tide*** was published. Subtitled "L.A. Anti-Racism Newsletter" at the time, the two-sided, 8-1/2 X 14 news-sheet was produced by


TURNING THE TIDE

L.A. ANTI-RACISM NEWSLETTER

For years, the menace of neo-nazi skinheads, organized by conscious anti-semitic, anti-gay and racist forces has been growing in Los Angeles and southern California generally.

* In Westminster, in July, a campaign of racist harassment and vandalism culminated in a cross-burning at the home of a Black former head of the Orange County NAACP. Police have arrested 23-year-old Gary Skillman, a former skin-head. He was carrying a racist poem, "KKK Youth Camp", urging the killing of Blacks and Jews, at the time of his arrest. Since his arrest, rock-throwing, death threats and other attacks by skin heads against Black, Asian and Hispanic residents have continued.

* In Laguna Beach, three skinheads have been arrested and charged with attempted murder in the brutal beatings of two gay men. The three, John Moore, Steven Walter, and Aaron Cornpean, in their teens and early 20's, have also been accused of violating their victims' civil rights by singling them out for attack by reason of their sexual orientation. But gay's, other attacks by skins, including the firing of shots into a gay-owned business, have continued. Similar organized attacks against lesbians, as well as gay men, are taking place in West Hollywood and in the Silverlake area. At least one killing has resulted.

* Last year in the San Fernando Valley, the leaders of two separate gangs of racist skins, Mike Martin and Pete McGurk, were arrested in separate incidents of attacks on Latinos. Martin, head of the Reich Skins, which carried out an organized campaign of racist terror for several months in the Chatsworth area, was arrested for breaking into a Latino student's home at gun point and threatening him and his family. He received probation. McGurk was arrested for driving a car through Sepulveda attacking Latino pedestrians; a passenger sprayed them with foam from a fire extinguisher while shouting racist slogans. McGurk, too, received probation for his crimes.

* Last year, skinheads from the San Gabriel Valley were arrested for attacking an anti-racist demonstration in Glendale (protesting the appearance of convicted Birminghan church bomber, J.B. Stoner. Skinheads from Riverside, affiliated with Tom Metzger's racist WAR organization were arrested in a van with baseball bats and lead pipes on their way to a King Day memorial march in Fontana being addressed by Martin Luther King III. Metzger had issued a highly inflamatory leaflet, depicting civil rights workers being killed by bombs planted in mailboxes along the route.

* Metzger himself and his son John, head of the Aryan Youth Movement/ White Student Union, have been involved in a series of violent confrontations on TV talk shows around the country, the most recent on Geraldo Rivera's. Metzger's own racist cable TV show, "Race and Reason", airs on cable systems in the San Fernando Valley, and is produced in Fullerton. Tom Fadgett, a produser and co-host of the show who lives with Metzger's daughter, has pleaded guilty to fraud in the ZZZZ Best carpet cleaner scandal; he funneled money from the company to Metzger. Owner Barry Minkow, on trial currently in federal court, claims the company was controlled by the mob for stock frauds and money laundering.

* Tom and John Metzger were arrested at a cross burning in the city of LA more than four years ago. Other participants later became federal fugitives and were involved in the racist underground Order which robbed banks and killed a Jewish talk show host. John Metzger, however, was merely released to his mother's custody, and the D.A. dropped the charges against Tom. When they were reinstated by the city attorney, they were twice dismissed by judges who called the cross-burning "odious but not illegal." The second dismissal came earlier this year.

VOLUME 1 NUMBER ONE OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1988 FIFTY CENTS

PEOPLE AGAINST RACIST

the year-old People Against Racist Terror (PART). It appeared on the occasion of the revived trial in Los Angeles of Tom Metzger of WAR (White Aryan Resistance) for a 1983 triple cross-burning in the San Fernando Valley.

Optimistically numbered "Volume 1 Number 1," the issue sported the slogan "Be PART of the solution." The next year, the publication underwent the first of many format changes, appearing as an 8-1/2X11 multi-sheet photo-copied bimonthly newsletter. It included lists of Anti-Racist Resources, a "Rogue's Gallery" of local racist and fascist groups, a section of reports of racist and anti-racist activity called "I Heard It Through the Grapevine," letters, news and political analysis. ***Turning the Tide*** has been published at least quarterly ever since.

You are invited to come celebrate this auspicious anniversary at the first annual Anti-Racist Awards presentation and buffet dinner on Saturday, December 7, 2013, at 7 PM.

It's at the West Side Peace Center, 3916 S. Sepulveda Blvd. in Culver City, CA. The West Side Peace Center is adjacent to the 405 Freeway, between Venice Boulevard and Washington Place).

Join us in marking 25 years of uninterrupted grassroots agitating, organizing and critical analysis, and in helping ***Turning the Tide*** continue going forward as a voice of uncompromising anti-racism, an-

TURNING THE TIDE

ANTI-RACISM NEWSLETTER

People Against Racist Terror, P.O. Box 1990, Burbank CA 91507

Volume IV, Number 2 March - April 1991 Fifty cents (50C)

COPS WAGE WAR ON BLACK COMMUNITY

Rodney King made his first mistake by speeding on the Foothill Freeway in suburban L.A. pass a CHP car. He made his second mistake by driving off when the CHP signalled him to pull over, but as a Black man on parole, he feared getting in trouble. He made his third mistake by getting off the freeway in an area of the northern San Fernando Valley patrolled by the L.A. Police Department.

Quickly stopped and surrounded by L.A. cops alerted to the chase by the CHP, King got out of his car along with two passengers, on Foothill Boulevard in Lake View Terrace, a racially mixed area that was the scene of a cross burning by the nazis and the KKK several years ago. There, early in the morning of March 2, King became another statistic – the latest victim of a lynching by the violence prone L.A.P.D. Brutally beaten by three cops with batons, burned and shocked twice with a TASER stun gun, he was kicked in the head, face and stomach while down on the ground, while a dozen other cops, including a sergeant and lieutenant from the CHP and L.A. School police looked on.

continued on page 5→

BUSH WAGES RACIST MID-EAST WAR

The racist nature of the Gulf war is as evident in the aftermath as in the build-up. Despite the opposition of some racist groups to the Gulf War (see article elsewhere in this issue), U.S. intervention in the Gulf grew out of racist roots. The disproportionate number of Blacks and Hispanics among front line troops was noted (their relative scarcity among high prestige pilots less commented on). When Blacks pickered recruiting centers in L.A., the L.A. Times reported several young Blacks about to sign up as saying that they felt they'd be safer in Saudi Arabia than on the streets of South Central L.A.

This is beyond the poverty draft; it is driving people into military "careers" with the stick of genocidal violence. And in fact, casualty rates for U.S. troops in Desert Storm were far, far lower than the casualty rate for young Black men in America's cities in the comparable period.

continued on page 3→

ti-sexism, anti-fascism, anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism, and commitment to human liberation and environmental sustainability. Admission to the event is $20 payable to Anti-Racist Action (or $30 with a one-year subscription to ***Turning the Tide*** added). Larger donations of course would be gratefully accepted. Call us at 323-636-7388 or email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com to get tickets now.

The program will feature a buffet, live music and the initial presentation of three awards focused on people of European descent who have contributed to anti-racist struggles. The award recipients will be present and have the opportunity to address their work. Each award is going to two or more people because we think anti-racist struggle is collective and multi-generational struggle. The awards:

• The Adrienne Rich Culture of Resistance and Liberation award, going to Sheila Pinkel, Mary Sutton and Carol Wells of the Center for the Study of Political Graphics (CSPG).

• The Sarah & Angelina Grimke Anti-Racist Communicators award, going to Ariana Manov and Leslie Radford (both of whom have been involved with KPFK Pacifica radio in Los Angeles).

• The Rose Friedman Working People's Survival award, going to Vanessa Carlisle, Lindsey Cristofani and Charlotte Moore, who work together doing outreach to and organizing of sex workers.

A few words about the titles of the awards. Adrienne Rich, a poet who passed

Journal of Anti-Racist Activism, Research and Education

TURNING THE TIDE

Volume 6, # 5-6 October - December 1993 $2 / News-stands

Inside this Issue:

Hate-crime Update Police Racism ADL, JDL and Zionism

Hawaiian Sovereignty

"I, Lili'uokalani, . . . Queen, do hereby protest . . . and yield my authority until . . . the U.S. shall undo the action of its representatives . . . ."

away last year, exemplified the spirit of collective efforts for liberation and opposition to oppression and hypocrisy. She won the National Book Award in 1974 for her often angry, feminist and anti-war poetry, and accepted the award on behalf of all women. Rich shared it with her fellow nominees, Alice Walker and Audre Lorde.

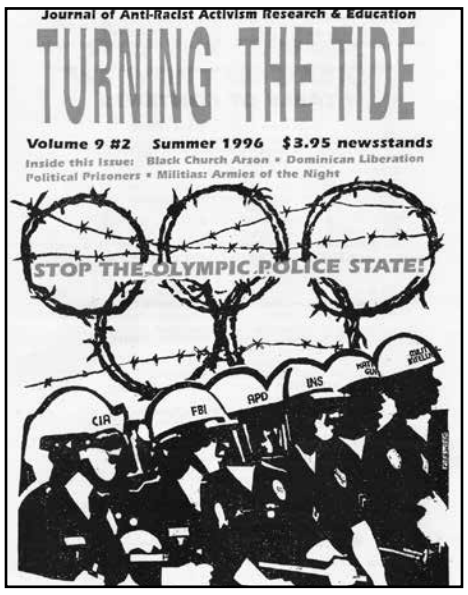
Sarah and Angelina Grimke were radical abolitionist organizers and speakers from pre-Civil War South Carolina. They sought to eliminate not only slavery but also racial discrimination, and fought for women's rights as well. They had to flee to the North when Southern slave-owners placed a bounty on their heads.

Rose Friedman is one of the many unknown victims of capitalist exploitation. The great-aunt of ***TTT*** editor and founder Michael Novick, she died at age 18, (before Novick's mother was born) in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in 1911.

ADVERTISE IN THE COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

In addition to the awards event, to mark the anniversary we will also publish a commemorative book with ads and good wishes and content from the "best of" 25 years of ***Turning the Tide*** since 1988.

Business card-size ads are $25; quarter-page ads are $50, half-pages $90, full pages are $175, payable to Anti-Racist Action. Make checks payable to "Anti-Racist Action" and send to ARA-LA/PART, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA


Journal of Anti-Racist Activism Research & Education

TURNING THE TIDE

Volume 9 #2 Summer 1996 $3.95 newsstands

Inside this Issue: Black Church Arson • Dominican Liberation

Political Prisoners • Militias: Armies of the Night

STOP THE OLYMPIC POLICE STATE!

CIA FBI RPD INS

90232. Ad copy and graphics can be sent either as camera-ready 'hard copy', or with design instructions, or as electronic files (.doc for text, .jpg for graphics) to antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com. A submission form will be available at www.tideturning.org with arrangements to pay on-line. Look for it! And join us!

BEYOND TRAYVON

by Mumia Abu-Jamal © 2013

The Trayvon Martin case is rightly "the straw that breaks the camel's back." For it shows with unusual clarity how Black life is so easily trivialized. But it is not alone in this endeavor. How the corporate media has responded to this tragedy is its own form of trivialization – a feeding frenzy of sheer spectacle, the exploitation of emotion, an endless, directionless discussion, leading less to light, than to commercials.

For the media explores the episodic, while it ignores the systematic.

Thus, Trayvon's case attracts the lights and videos, but the many, many others who fall, especially to police violence, draws little interest.

Trayvon Martin

Absent from most discussion is the targeting of a system that cages more people than any in history. Lost from the orgy of spectacle is the hidden faces of mass incarceration, that impacts millions. For attention to the episodic elicits tears, while contemplation on the systematic brings the challenge of change.

If "Stand Your Ground" gets repealed, it does not change the system that treats many thousands of youths as expendable. Several months ago, by just one vote, the Supreme Court condemned the practice of sending juveniles to life terms in prison without possibility of parole. Of all the jurisdictions in America, indeed, in the whole wide world, Pennsylvania ranked first in juvenile life incarceration, FIRST!

But juveniles aren't only the targets of the prison industry. They face shuttered schools, joblessness, and the fear and contempt of their elders. They face tomorrows of emptiness. They face the faceless fury of a system that damns them to half-life at their birth.

Trayvon is the one – they are the many.

From imprisoned nation, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal. [Cell clangs shut.] (These commentaries are recorded by Noelle Hanrahan of prisonradio.org.)

International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal
P.O. Box 19709, Philadelphia, PA 19143
Tel: 215-476-8812 web: www.mumia.org, email: icffmaj@aol.com
Write to Mumia:
Mumia Abu-Jamal #AM 8335
SCI Mahanoy, 301 Morea Road,
Frackville, PA 17932

Native Americans, Anti-fascists Chase Neo-Nazis from North Dakota Town

This article is from http://politicalblindspot.com/neo-nazis-trying-to-take-over-north-dakota-town-sent-running-by-native-american-and-anti-fascist-activists/

A Native-led group of multi-racial activists confront Neo-Nazis, who hid behind police.

In an update to the story we ran yesterday on the town of Leith, North Dakota being taken over by Neo-Nazi racists, Michael Pugliese tells us from the ground that "Lakota, Dakota, Anishinabe, Apache, African, Irish, German, Norwegian, Spanish, and other anti-racist individuals stood together to fight against the attempted nazi takeover of Leith, North Dakota."

Pugliese documents the activism "led by indigenous resistors" who are seen "making a presence to ensure that neo nazi/confederate fascists know they have no chance of taking over Leith."

In the photos we see police protecting Neo-Nazis, "making sure they're allowed to continue with their white power nonsense" according to Pugliese.

"In the end, it was people power that sent the supporters of these nazi cowards home."

"Today," Pugliese said, "anti-racist resistance made it quite clear that the attempted nazi takeover of Leith will be a total failure."

Stay tuned for more updates on the critical situation in Leith, North Dakota. And SPREAD THE WORD about these clowns who are trying to run out Native peoples, African Americans and others from the small town of Leith.

(Article compiled by Micah Naziri, with reporting and photos by Michael Pugliese).

Primary sources for photos and info via @drjumpingeagle, @245NorthMain, and @lastrealindians on twitter.

More photos at http://revnews.tumblr.com/post/62030867758/today-lakota-dakota-anishinabe-apache)

REVIEW: ORANGE IS NOT NEW AND PRISON IS NOT OUR BEST COLOR

by Susie Day

Twenty-five years ago, I, a hapless reporter on assignment, went to the DC Jail and met the woman who was to be my life's partner. I interviewed her about her political bombing case. We fell in love; I visited her in various prisons for 11 years; she was released; we're now spending the rest of our lives working out our relationship, which has much to do with politics and everything with what she went through in prison.

What a story, right? I haven't written much about this because I've found it impossible to convey what prison did to us. But when I read Piper Kerman's smart, funny, heart-grabbing book *Orange Is the New Black*, chronicling her year behind bars, I thought, "Whoa, she gets this." Then I caught the Netflix series based on Kerman's book. I now suspect the most lethal thing you can do to the truth about prison is to bring it anywhere near the entertainment industry.

From her book, Piper Kerman seems a standup person. Yes, she's a thin, white Smith graduate; she's got the confidence that comes from being told all your life that you and your people matter. But during her 11-month stint in the Danbury prison camp on a drug conviction, Piper, for all her legal reserves, family support, her fiancé's devotion, realized she was as powerless as the scores of mostly poor women of all colors and cultures who did time alongside her.

Prison corrodes humanity with absurd, bureaucratic cruelties. Inside, as my partner found, the best way to hang on to your soul is to actually see the people around you. This is what Kerman did, and the bonds she forged with the women at Danbury changed her life. She came alive to the fact that the each of the 2.4 million women and men locked into U.S. "correctional" facilities -- disproportionately of color; almost all poor -- possess souls that weigh the same as her own. Kerman angled her book that way, and now, she's on the board of the Women's Prison Association, working to change the punitive mentality that created this nation's prison system.

Still image from ***Orange is the New Black*** on Netflix

Which is why it hurts to see what was, in book form, a credible, compassionate story of women surviving prison, stream online as voyeuristic entertainment about mean-girl-sex-drug-snake-pit lockups. In this hierarchy of intimidation and deceit, shame trumps compassion almost every time. No wonder America loves this show.

Prison on Netflix looks authentic. Women have bad skin, rotten teeth, lumpy figures. But this also works to shield shallowly conceived characters, many who verge on class/race caricatures. Black, Latina, poor white women, and lesbians are trashy, self-hating, predatory, and come with precooked back stories involving poverty, drugs, abuse, etc., to explain how they got that way. Piper, on Netflix, is a self-avowed WASP narcissist. Inside, she likes fucking the ex-girlfriend who got her arrested. She also isn't above turning

Continues on page 7...

WILL THE LEGISLATURE DUPE US TOO?

by Mutope Duguma

Sept. 8, 2013 – First and foremost we want to give a lot of respect and love to all the human beings who made their voices heard and the countless dedicated supporters and organizations who beat the drum as well as the pavement demanding an end to LONG TERM solitary confinement.

To the 30,000 hunger strikers who courageously stood up, we commend each and every one of you, no matter if you did one day or the whole 60 days. We have had three hunger strikes in which none of us could imagine such courage would stem from such a peaceful protest. But as I have written in an article called, "Because I've seen men," my own personal strength and resolve has been improved on. I could not have ever expected to be among such courageous individuals. I salute each and every one of you.

We want to always give much respect and love to the six prisoners who sacrificed their lives despite what CDCr propagated against you. We know each and every one of you died for a cause that's more honorable than anything, especially in a world where men and women die every day for nothing. We also know none of you were suicidal. We will forever hold you all in our memory, high before the world.

Now, where do we go from here? We've been promised change, which we will humbly allow to take its course. One thing we have learned throughout our protracted struggle is that there is a solid 100 hunger strikers who we know now will be willing to lay their lives down for our cause, and I am among that 100. These individuals are remarkable, so our protracted struggle continues.

We all signed up collectively to move in unison; therefore, we will allow the voice of our 20 representatives to be the voice that makes the decisions in the interests of us all, based on their collective judgment. This has always been an inclusive protracted struggle. Our New Afrikan collective, Latino-Mexican collective, white collective and Asian collective – these brothers and sisters joined forces in order to end torture in Amerika's solitary confinement units. We now allow the system to work, while being very vigilant as to what kind of change we will receive.

We continue to hit the pavement, make the calls, write the Legislature and governor. We do not know at this time what the time period would be on that change, but I am sure there will be one, and each and every one of us will be informed of that time period, especially prisoners who are suffering in solitary confinement each second, minute and hour of the day inside these torture chambers. The world has heard your screams.

We continue to educate the public about our individual horror stories inside solitary confinement units, whether they're called SHUs or Administration Segregation Units. We can never go back to accepting solitary confinement as an indefinite placement for any Amerikans, foreigners, refugees or immigrants.

Our protracted struggle continues. Those of us who did the whole 60 days, like myself and our main four representatives, need to take the time to get your health back in order. It will take anywhere from 90 days to six months depending on the severity of damage.

Demand blood work be done and your organs screened before you go back to exercising. We all may be called on to make that ultimate sacrifice and I personally know that we will see that courageous 100 front and center.

Our protracted struggle continues in memory of the following courageous prisoners:

Christian Gomez
Alex Machado
Alonzo Hozel Blanchard
A. 'Baby Paya' Morales (Watts native)
Billy "Guero" Sell
Johnny Owen Vick
Will the Legislature dupe us too?

The 20 representatives have to do what they believe is in the best interest of our collective and that means negotiating with CDCr, politicians or any officials who are part of that process.

We are demanding that our five core demands be met, and to those who don't know, the 40 supplemental demands are part of Core Demand No. 5. The 20 representatives have a responsibility outside of making decisions: They each have to make sure that they don't subject you or me to unnecessary suffering when they do not have to.

If the Legislature turns around and dupes us, then we will be forced to continue our peaceful protest in the interests of every solitary confined prisoner.

So the reality right now is that Sen. Loni Hancock and Assemblymember Tom Ammiano have basically said that there has to be change. Now the people have to get behind these two politicians and make sure that they are empowered to make that change possible: Relieve prisoners of their on-going suffering inside these solitary confinement units that serve no purpose whatsoever.

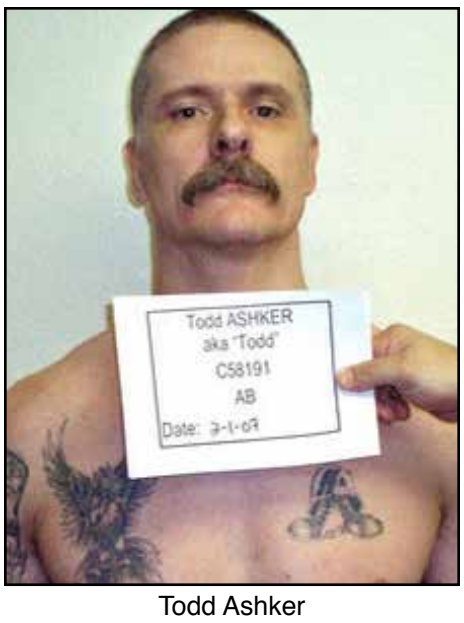
There have already been countless dialogues, interviews, books written and legislative hearings on solitary confinement and they have all been fruitless to date. So it is our hope that these current hearings will render that change that we so desperately seek, in the interests of all prisoners held throughout California in these isolation units and hopefully throughout the United States of America. We do not know to what degree CDCr will involve themselves in making these meaningful changes possible, but we hold hope.

We will be following these future events very closely and ask everyone to do the same, because if the Legislature turns around and dupes us, then we will be forced to continue our peaceful protest in the interests of every solitary confined prisoner.

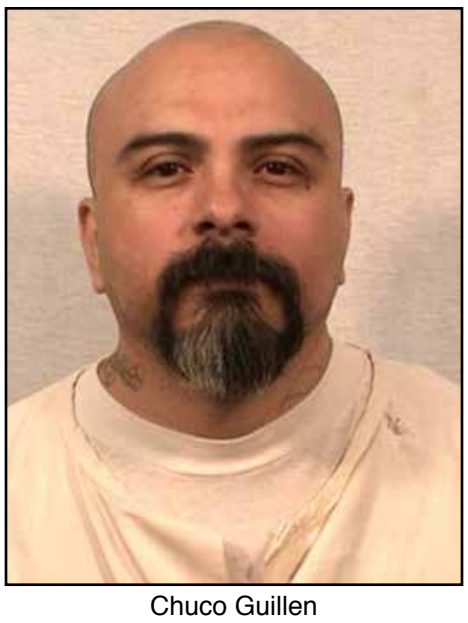
In Solidarity,
One Love, One Struggle
Mutope Duguma

http://sfbayview.com/2013/hunger-striker-considers-where-we-go-from-here-wonders-will-the-legislature-dupe-us-too/

Send our brother some love and light: Though he was still at New Folsom Prison when he wrote this, his transfer back to Pelican Bay is believed to be imminent, so write to Mutope Duguma, s/n James Crawford, D-05996, PBSP SHU D1-117, P.O. Box 7500, Crescent City CA 95532.



Todd Ashker



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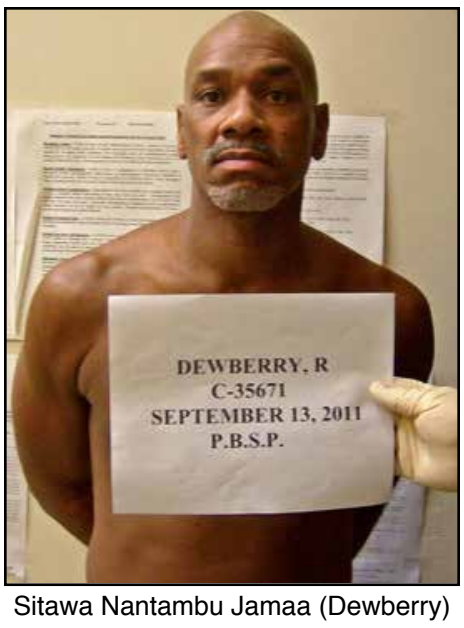
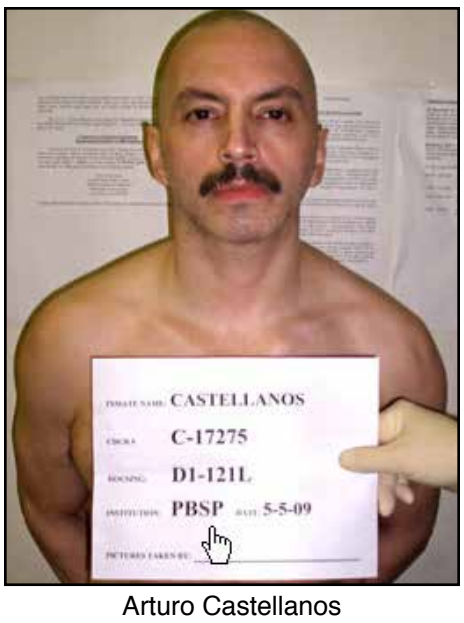


Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa (Dewberry)



Arturo Castellanos

SEX WORK AND SOCIAL CHANGE

CONFRONT YOUR PREJUDICE BECAUSE WE AREN'T LEAVING

by members of the Sex Workers Outreach Project

Back in 1997, a group of radical activist sex workers in India called the First National Sex Worker Congress, wrote a manifesto, and became some of the first to articulate the values of what has become known internationally as the "Sex Worker's Rights Movement." Their documents continue to inform a global struggle. They wrote that "this movement is for everyone who strives for an equal, just, equitable, oppression free and above all a happy social world." They also acknowledged that "sexual inequality and control of sexuality engender and perpetuate many other inequalities and exploitation too." According to the First Congress, and most importantly, we are faced with a singular opportunity, a chance to get at the roots of multiple forms of injustice because the sex worker rights movement addresses racism, sexism, classism, and any and all other -isms that keep people oppressed. At the intersection of economic transaction and sexuality, one can find most of the darkest contradictions of the dominant industrialized, global capitalist paradigm we live under. Perhaps because of this, one can also access some of the most potent revolutionary potential.

We use the term "sex work" to refer to ourselves when we talk politics. Why should you use it too? First reason: sex workers came up with it for ourselves. We use it because it is gender neutral, and because it reminds us that the erotic industries are myriad, and our trajectories in the industries tend to be wildly unpredictable mixes of cultural, political, economic, and personal factors with some very real commonalities among our varied experiences. We are sometimes doing legal work, sometimes extra-, para-, or straight up illegal, and saying "sex work" protects us from legal consequence while we try to find each other. When a person tells you s/he is a sex worker, your first question should not be "does that mean you're a prostitute?" Your first question should be: "How can I be supportive to your struggle?"

Sex workers are operating in every neighborhood. We are working in every city, in every county, in every state, and, particularly in the United States of Amerikkka, we are subject to some of the most insidious divide-and-conquer tactics invented by the carceral state. A sex worker is the person most likely to be murdered, worldwide. Even those who work in "high-end" escorting have no recourse to community help or protection if they are in danger.

We are accused of spreading disease, when we have some of the most sophisticated safe sex practices available and often act as sexual health educators for our clients and communities. We are arrested for carrying condoms in New York, Los Angeles, and many other places, even though those condoms can save lives. We are the butt of "dead hooker" jokes, we are blamed for other people's sexual problems, we are assumed to be broken people, children of molest or broken homes and addicts, and when we do suffer from sexual trauma or drug dependence, we do not receive compassionate care. We have to stand before judges in the courtroom, but we also are judged the instant we "out" ourselves to almost anyone.

Please note: the "we" spoken here is an important problem: some sex workers are laboring indoors, in privileged contexts, while some are working outdoors and barely surviving. As one might expect, people of color are disproportionately represented in this country's jails and prisons, even though white women make up the majority of the American sex worker population. While it may seem that all this stigma and repression spells disaster for us, we have increased in number at every epoch. This creates a potential for solidarity among us: a shared struggle against state repression is always a good place to start.

However, sex workers organizing ourselves is only part of the picture if we are to build a movement against oppression that is intersectional, inclusive, intercommunal, and powerful. We need our allies in radical communities to answer our call to stand with us as workers, as women, as men, as trans people, as straight-gay-queer-bi-pan-other. As the sex workers at the First Congress knew, many sex workers absorb the societal stigma of shame and unworthiness. We need allies to recognize that stigma is a commonality that links all of us, despite the enormous diversity in our realities at work and in our lives. Our allies are people who fight for an end to social injustice, but they don't always recognize us as allies to them. The tacit exclusion of sex workers from radical groups necessarily means a loss to the revolutionary community, considering that we are everywhere. A political activist doesn't need to agree with a sex worker's choices to stand in solidarity with her, just as we don't need to agree with every choice made by every comrade in prison in order to stand in solidarity with them, particularly when we all call for the abolition of prisons! But we often find that the radical left would prefer to rescue, rather than join hands, with us.

Sex workers are marginalized and stigmatized by mainstream culture as well as the radical left.

Kthi Win, the chairperson of the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers writes of her experience this way:

"The violence happens when feminist rescue organizations work with the police who break into our work places and beat us, rape us and kidnap our children in order to save us. As a movement, feminism is meant to believe in agency. Even oppressed women in sex work can make choices. But we cannot chose not to be saved when a policeman or police women has a gun pointed at our head.

What we need is for the mainstream women's movement to not just silently support our struggle but to speak up and speak out against the extremists who have turned the important movement against real trafficking into a violent war against sex workers."

Sex work is by definition consensual sex. Non consensual sex is rape, slavery, or trafficking. The Sex Worker's Rights Movement has been instrumental in bringing trafficking cases to light; however, we are often regarded as trafficked persons against our own assertions of freedom and agency. We must, according to sexist capitalist logic, be either criminals or victims.

So ask yourself how you feel about sex work. Do you believe all people in the sex industries should be rescued from degradation? Are we disrespecting ourselves? Are we disrespecting decent, hard-working revolutionaries who know how to be good heterosexual monogamous partners? Are we disrespecting women's liberation to assert that some of us prefer working with pimps or madams than working independently, given our choices? Are we lost to the cause of destroying the capitalist state, because we are already slut-shamed and ostracized?

We imagine an autonomous sexuality in which all people have the right to say "yes" or "no," in which there is no space for guilt or oppression, in which people are communicating respectfully about their desires and needs. We invite those on the radical left to: consider your own internalized shame about sex, demand a higher consciousness about your own prejudice against sex workers, and demonstrate a commitment to fight alongside us, because we are already fighting alongside you.

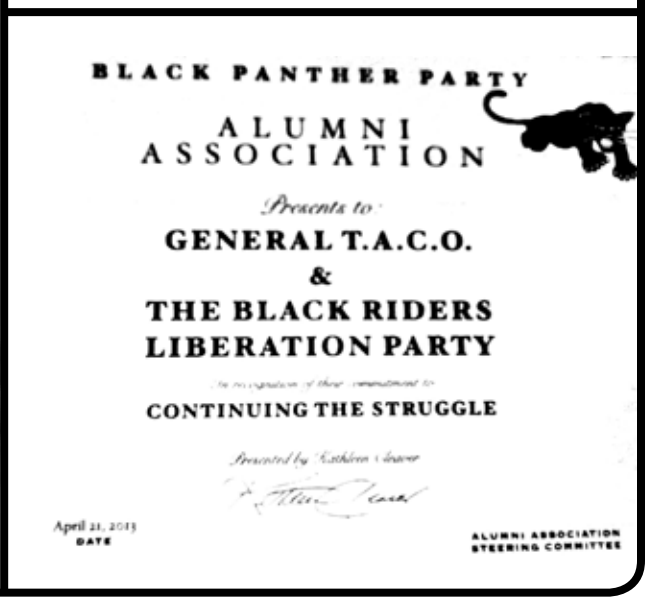
General Taco (Taking All Capitalist Out) aka Wolverine Shakur

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

On April 21, 2013 the Black Riders New Generation Black Panther Party for Self Defense was honored by the Black Panther Party Alumni Association with the "Continuing the Struggle" Award Kathleen Cleaver and many other elders from the original Black Panthers presented this award to General TACO for 17+ years of revolutionary service to the community.

Much respect and love goes out to our comunity supporters who donate quarters nickels and dimes to keep us riding and building positive programs to serve the people. We will be freed by any means necessary. Black Power. All power to the people.

Join now! (323) 289-4457
To create a prison chapter write:
BRLP
P.O. Box 8297
Los Angeles, CA 90008


BLACK PANTHER PARTY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Presents to
GENERAL T.A.C.O.
&
THE BLACK RIDERS LIBERATION PARTY
CONTINUING THE STRUGGLE
April 21, 2013
DATE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION STEERING COMMITTEE

TEACHERS IN MEXICO, GREECE STRUGGLE AGAINST PRIVATIZATION AND AUSTERITY

Teachers and police battle in the streets of Mexico

According to "Teacher Solidarity" (www.teachersolidarity.com), teachers in Mexico are struggling against a corporate agenda with its origins in the US. President Enrique Peña Nieto is imposing neo-liberal solutions on Mexico's schools, including standardized tests and tying teachers' pay and tenure to test results.

In Oaxaca, at the forefront of the struggle against such measures for a decade, a new education reform has been proposed by teachers' leaders to put teachers and communities at the heart of developing education. Meanwhile a corporate lobby, led by groups like the DC think tank "Partnership for Educational Revitalization in the Americas" and *Mexicanos Primeros*, which is supported by business leaders and corporations, is mounting a sustained propaganda attack on the country's teachers. It holds them responsible for a perceived education failure, while ignoring gross under-funding of schools in low income communities as well as endemic poverty for which neo-liberalism is largely responsible.

- See more at: http://www.teachersolidarity.com/blog/understanding-the-struggle-of-mexicos-teachers/#sthash.jc9Mpmby.dpuf

After a vicious police attack on teachers, the National Coordinator of Education Workers in Mexico (CNTE) declared: "Sept. 13, with a massive deployment of riot police and federal forces, Peña Nieto is cracking down on teachers to evict them from the central square (Zocalo) of Mexico City [and] unleashed a campaign of terror to destabilize the movement, and pave the way for repression in all states of the country in which the teachers are struggling.

"The government lied, cheated and imposed laws that shredded teachers' rights and strips recognition from the union and its contractual working conditions. Given the seriousness of the situation and against this new attack, we call URGENTLY for all supporters to come to embassies and consulates of Mexico in their countries. Demand that the Mexican government cease the repression of teachers from the CNTE. Request immediate satisfaction of their demands: repeal of laws that strip them of their labor rights and the opening of a genuine national dialogue for educational reform that addresses the needs of the people of Mexico. Write to:

LIC. ENRIQUE PEÑA NIETO, Presidente Constitucional de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos

enrique.penanieto@presidencia.gob.mx

LIC. CHUAYFFET CHEMOR EMILIO, Secretaria de Educación Pública

emilio.chuayffet@sep.gob.mx

Copy to seccionmexicana.coali@gmail.com, to Maestra Graciela Rangel: rasagas@live.com, and to Prof. Eligio Hernández: eligiogonzalez@hotmail.com

According to Rafael Azul on southweb.org, repression at the state level in Mexico was taking place before the Mexico City attacks. Gov. Ángel Aguirre Rivero of Guerrero issued arrest orders in April against two leaders of the Guerrero Teachers Union (CETEG): Minervino Morán and Gonzalo Juárez. They are charged as "intellectual authors" of popular upheavals that erupted with the escalating struggle of Guerrero state teachers. "They're vandals; delinquents," said Aguirre, accusing CETEG of being connected to the ERPI guerrilla movement (Insurgent People's Revolutionary Army – Ejército Revolucionario del Pueblo Insurgente) that operates in the state.

Leonidas Oikonomakis wrote on roarmag.org* about what teachers in Mexico and Greece had in common. "The struggle of teachers in Greece and Mexico is a Thermopylae of our times: a battle to defend our social rights in a global class war. I had the opportunity to pass the Zócalo in Mexico City in August 2013 and see the occupation of the square by the public school teachers of CNTE. It was impressive to see the huge square of Mexico City transformed into a massive tent-city by the teachers on strike, and even more impressive to sense how determined they were in their struggle.

"In austerity-stricken Greece, the Federation of Secondary Education State School Teachers (OLME) announced a national five-day rolling strike starting on Sept. 16."

The Greek teachers explained: "The government has passed a new law on education without a dialogue establishing a harsh, exam-centered system in all grades of upper secondary education, forcing students to seek private tuition and leading to school drop-outs." The government is also shutting schools, laying off teachers and privatizing vocational education. According to Oikonomakis, it had been students protesting such cuts and privatization. "Yet, this time, it was the Greek teachers who picked up the baton from their Mexican counterparts to fight for free public education and for dignity. As they stated in one of the videos on YouTube: 'I go on strike — and I think we all should — because it's the only thing left to do for our dignity…' There's a war out there, don't forget. And, so far at least, 'their' class is winning."

OLME, knowing that the struggle will be long and in an effort to assist teachers who've already seen their salaries cut 30%-40% in their strike, has created a Solidarity Fund. Those willing to help can contribute to the following bank account in Greece: 114-00-2002-005457, ALPHA BANK.

*ROAR Magazine is an online journal of the radical imagination that seeks to amplify the voice of our generation amid the cacophony of a changing world.

TRIQUI AND MIXTECO STRAWBERRY PICKERS ON STRIKE FOR DIGNITY

Burlington, WA – It starts with a whistle, that ruptures the relative quiet of working as fast as you can, on your knees, back bent over, searching for the tiny ripe strawberries that stain your hands, trying to make the minimum weight. The whistle is answered, meaning someone else agrees with the original whistle's discontent, and soon a chorus erupts in resounding symphony of agreement and workers walk off the field en masse. This was one of the first Triqui sitdown strikes in the region in the mid 2000s, as described by anthropologist Seth M. Holmes in his book *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the US* (2013) exposing the plight of migrant Triqui farmworkers. That strike ended when the farm's executives agreed to a policy against intimidation and violence in the workplace, slightly higher pay and lunch breaks for pickers. The gains were silently rescinded a year later.

On July 11, a little over 200 farmworkers walked off the fields at Sakuma Brothers Farms (http://sakumabros.com) in Burlington, WA. Triqui and Mixteco strawberry pickers and their families organized the strike. They met with Ryan Sakuma, a crop manager and several foremen. Meeting for just over an hour, the farm-workers voiced their grievances over the unfair wage (30 cents/lb) for berries compared to CA (70 cents/lb), the unjust firing of Federico Lopez, and the undignified mistreatment they receive at the hands of the foremen in the fields and at their labor camps.

Lopez was fired for organizing other pickers to strike. Sakuma, hearing about the incident second hand from his foreman "El Güero," interpreted labor organizing as an act of intimidation against other pickers, and cited the Sakuma Brothers Farm company policy against "intimidation, threats and violence in the workplace." Sakuma apologized, but he said he had to stand firm with company policy.

Rosalinda Guillen and Angelica Villa from Community to Community Development (http://foodjustice.org) were on hand to serve as mediators and translators for the striking farm-workers. When she translated what Ryan Sakuma had explained, the workers and their families said that Lopez hadn't intimidated them; on the contrary they'd felt intimidated by the foremen.

One farm-worker said that many pickers were only making $45 to $53 a day. Washington's minimum wage is $9.19 per hour, or $73.52 a day. She explained that they were also worried about being evicted from the labor camps because the minimum weight of 246 lbs. per day based on an 8-hour day was too difficult to meet. Farm-workers of course work more than an 8-hour day. The same picker explained that the strawberry field they were working was sparse and the berries were small. This meant they had to work extra fast, and the foremen and checkers would yell at them, and would consistently undercount the weight of each 30-pound bin.

This corresponds with what Holmes documented in the early 2000s when he conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Burlington. "The white checkers are given power over how many pounds are marked for the pickers, and I observed more often than not that checkers marked less weight on the cards than the scale displayed." (Holmes, p. 70). Holmes maps out the class, ethnic and racial hierarchical structure of a Skagit Valley berry farm in his study. His findings demonstrate that Triqui and Mixteco migrant farm-workers are on the bottom rung when it comes to respect, earnings and working conditions.

The picker I was speaking to was a young Triqui mother, her daughter hugging on her leg as we spoke. She was adamant that she had grievances of her own and wanted them heard, expressing frustration with the patriarchal structure of the farm's hierarchy. She later sought me out to explain to me that there was also preferential treatment by farm managers as far as who got to pick the better fields or work at hourly-paid positions. She accused a foreman's wife of being verbally abusive to workers when she worked as a checker, and she also accused the foreman of favoritism when it came to allocating fields. His wife and her crew always got preference for easy-to-pick fields.

Another Sakuma foreman was confronted by the farm-workers for yelling at them, treating them like children. The list of demands asks for no retaliation against Federico Lopez. The workers demand a raise in piece rate wage from 30 to 70 cents. Workers demand to know why Sakuma only asked for guest workers for blueberries and not for strawberries (harder work) if there's really a labor shortage. Pickers want to be paid overtime, and to resolve problems with childcare.

The farm-workers have met with representatives from the Northwest Justice Project who have organized their labor claims. To support this labor struggle get the word out, or join a boycott against Haägen-Dazs strawberry ice cream and any other strawberry dairy product that uses Sakuma Brothers Farms Northwest Variety strawberries.

On Sept. 25, *Familias Unidas por la Justicia* and individual plaintiff Felimon Pineda won a victory when Skagit County Superior Court Judge John Meyer ordered Sakuma Brothers Berry Farms to remove security guards from their housing. Meyer issued a restraining order prohibiting Sakuma Brothers from further violations of Washington's primary labor law, the Little Norris LaGuardia Act. It prohibits employers from interfering with workers organizing themselves in order to improve wages and working conditions. The judge ordered Sakuma to immediately remove security personnel from areas where they could observe or eavesdrop on the workers. They may not follow workers or community supporters on public roads and highways. "Security does not belong in a camp with families; our struggle is peaceful and for the future of our children," said Felimon Pineda vice-president of *Familias Unidas*. Further, the Judge found that the workers have a right to choose their representatives for negotiations, and to publicize their labor dispute, such as the ongoing boycott, but he declined to grant injunctive relief on those two issues at this time.

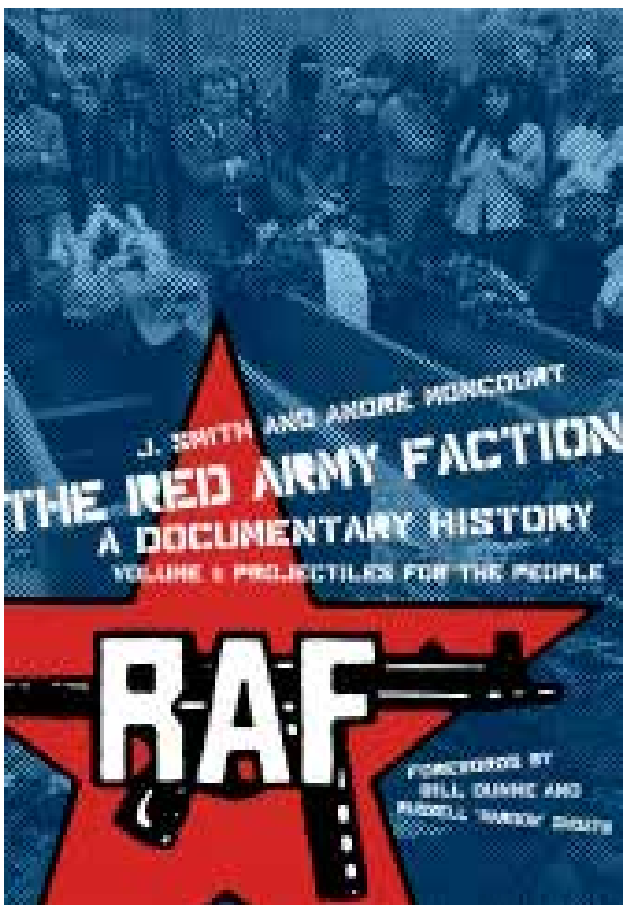
Join the solidarity efforts on the ground or to support this work financially you can contact Community to Community Development at 360-381-0293 or 360-756-2330 or e-mail decomunidad@qwestoffice.net, for updates visit our website at http://foodjustice.org and look for us on facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Community-2Community or https://www.facebook.com/c2caguiladelnorte

From: http://karani.wordpress.com/2013/07/12/triqui-and-mixteco-strawberry-pickers-on-strike-for-dignity/

REVIEW: THE RED ARMY FACTION

by Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/ People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)

The Red Army Faction, A Documentary History
Volume 1: Projectiles for the People (February 2009);
Volume 2: Dancing with Imperialism (June 2013)
Edited by J. Smith and André Moncourt,
Published by PM Press and Kersplebedeb
Volume 1, Forewords by Russell "Maroon" Shoats and Bill Dunne
ISBN: 978-1-60486-029-0, Paperback, 736 pages, $34.95
Volume 2, Introduction by Ward Churchill
ISBN: 978-1-60486-030-6, Paperback, 480 Pages, $26.95
Volume 3 forthcoming
Much documentation in the books available at:
http://www.germanguerilla.com
Graphics used in the volumes online at:
http://plakat.nadir.org/



The Red Army Faction, Volume 1

Far from being a relic of the '60s and '70s, the German Red Army Faction (RAF), an urban guerrilla formation in the "metropole" of imperialism, has continued to be a target of state repression well into the 21st Century. In a 2010 statement issued by "some who have been RAF members at various points in time," they addressed the prosecution of a former RAF member, who had secretly become a cooperating "crown witness" years before, for the assassination of German Attorney General Siegfried Buback more than 30 years ago. They wrote: "The apparent purpose is to obtain individual 'recriminations,' i.e. to pressurize individuals to say who exactly did what…. Not enough that we have stated our collective responsibility for the attacks of the RAF. We should 'finally' squeal in order to 'give up the logic of conspiracy.'" They describe the effort by the state and the corporate media to reduce their struggle to personal aberrations, an effort that goes back to the bourgeois designation of the RAF as the "Baader-Meinhof Gang," after the names of two of their founding members.

They continued, "What it is really all about is to pull …the debate on the history of armed struggle [down] to the mere level of murder and violence…The RAF was dissolved in 1998, based on its assessment of the changed political situation globally. The fact that it was its own decision and that it has not been defeated by the state, obviously remains a thorn in the flesh [of the state]. Hence the eternal lament of the "myth" yet to be destroyed. Hence the political and moral capitulation demanded from us. Hence the attempts to finalize the criminalization of our history… Whereas the search for those who are still underground, the smear campaigns in the media and the legal procedures against former prisoners continue, we are expected to kowtow publicly. As in all these years, it didn't work by 'renunciation,' we are now to denounce each other."

They explained why they continue to refuse to testify. "Not to testify is not a RAF invention. It has been an experience of the liberation movements and guerilla groups that it is vital to provide no information whatsoever when in custody, in order to protect those who continue the struggle. We have the historical examples of the resistance against fascism… But also like this. We don't testify because we are no state witnesses, not then, not now."

"Through all these years, despite 'screen search' technologies, the highly armed state security apparatus hasn't been able to obtain a reasonably comprehensive picture of our movements.... The bits and pieces put together by state security agencies haven't been very useful for general counterinsurgency purposes. They have no clue of the approach, the organization, the traces, the dialectics of an urban guerilla in the metropolis. And there is no reason to help them out on this. …The RAF's collective structure has been attacked right from the start. It was not supposed to exist, it had to be old school, authoritarian relationships, 'officers and soldiers,' ringleaders and followers. Those were the compulsory terms for the police, for the propaganda, and those are their terms today. The judiciary, however …was lacking evidence in court due to our lack of collaboration. Its solution was the 'conspiracy' paragraph 129/129a, with which everyone could be made responsible for everything. That's what the verdicts have been based on... In contrast, testimonies which we sometimes provided in the trials against us, during the years of prison, have been determined collectively, as a possibility to say something against the worst shithouse propaganda."

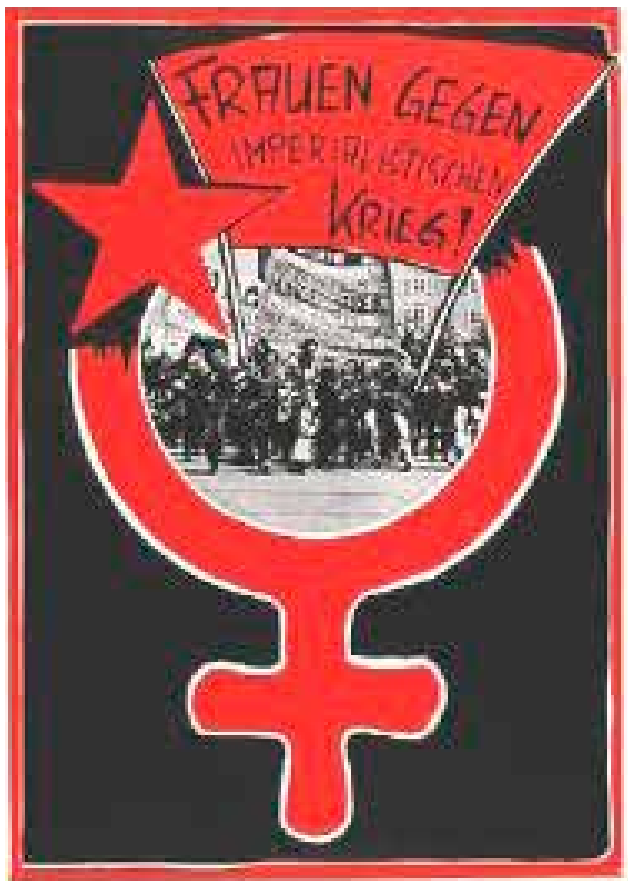
They concluded: "We were in prison because we started armed struggle over here, and our interest during the trials in court was, at best, to convey the contents and aims of our policy. A policy of attack in the metropolis which understood and determined its praxis in the context of struggles worldwide for liberation from capitalism."

This represents the strength of political commitment demonstrated by the RAF through torturous, sensory-deprivation isolation incarceration, being "suicided" in prison, and continuing almost 35 years after the creation of the organization in the face of continuing persecution. It demonstrates why they merit serious study of the content and history of their political thinking, practice and development.

That study has been well served by the "Documentary History" of the Red Army Faction being meticulously produced by J. Smith and Andre Moncourt, with two volumes completed and a third in preparation (probably some additional years until publication). Profusely illustrated, and carefully researched, the books present the RAF in their own words and in well-explicated context. Smith and Moncourt's narrative amounts to a history of mid- to late-20th Century imperialism from the perspective of the so-called "Federal Republic" of West Germany (plus West Berlin, a separate entity until the reunification of Germany after the communist East German Democratic Republic was absorbed).

Its relevance today is magnified by the central role the series of hunger strikes by the imprisoned members of the RAF played in exposing the militarist nature of the German state, and in helping to attract new combatants to the ranks of the "guerrilla" in Germany and throughout Western Europe. We have recently seen in California the power of that bodies-on-the-line commitment by prisoners to impact consciousness, not only in the prisons, but also on the streets. The RAF's prescience about the offense-oriented nature of the NATO alliance also makes its analyses important reading today.

It's impossible to summarize such a voluminous work. The division into 3 volumes roughly parallels the history of the RAF in three periods, or generations. The first is



German poster: "Women Against Imperialist War"

Solidarity with RAF-prisoner-led 1981 hunger strike

from their founding until the 1977 kidnapping and killing of German industrialist Hanns Martin Schleyer and the deaths in prison of many of the allegedly leading RAF members. The second is from that point through the 1984 arrests of (unbeknownst to the state at the time) virtually the entire ranks of combatants then in the field. They were attempting to put into practice a plan to develop a "front" between the German guerrilla and both similar formations in other mostly European countries and semi-legal anti-imperialist and radical groups. The third volume will address the period from the second reconstitution of the RAF from a major counter-offensive in 1984 through the group's self-dissolution in 1998.

The question of whether and how armed struggle relates to the much different political circumstances of the 21st Century is a critical one. Even more important is the question of what politics can guide the development of a successful strategy for revolutionary change and develop appropriate tactics, as well as undertake the necessary transformation and development of committed, consistent and capable revolutionaries.

Smith and Moncourt's detailed, methodical presentation of this history provides valuable insights, including into the differing politics that guided various German clandestine and semi-clandestine armed struggle groups and actions over almost two decades. In addition to the RAF, the June 2nd Movement (2JM), the Revolutionary Cells (RZ) and their women's off-shoot Rote Zora built fairly consolidated underground formations from different political and organizational perspectives. Thousands of other armed and otherwise illegal actions were carried out by elements of the German anti-imperialist and autonomist movements between the late '60s and the '90s.

Analyzing the strengths and weaknesses, the differences – particularly between "social revolutionary" and "anti-imperialist" orientations – and their impact, can make a vital contribution to understanding the true nature of our enemy, and the most effective strategy for defeating it once and for all. The contradiction between the "autonomist" and "anti-imp" tendencies in the German movement, paralleled similar differences between guerrilla groupings.

A similar division, minus the armed underground organizations, existed in the South Korean movements against militarism and dictatorship, between "national liberation" and "peoples democracy" formations (see my review of *Asia's Unknown Uprisings* in the last issue of ***TTT***). The comparison of the South Korean and German movements over roughly the same time period also highlights the necessity of correctly linking clandestine guerrilla capacity and mass insurrectionary activity. Deeper study and struggle aimed at developing a revolutionary synthesis of all necessary aspects of understanding both the Empire and how to defeat it is an essential part of a current revolutionary process.

Smith and Moncourt have made and are making a tremendous contribution to that process, and to recuperating the lessons that the RAF and others learned at a tremendous cost. Learning about and from the contributions and errors, the successes and failures, of past revolutionary efforts, can contribute mightily to ending all forms of oppression and exploitation, and to the ultimate triumph of the forces of decolonization, liberation, and a better, sustainable world.

A DISPLACED AND DISCARDED LABOR FORCE

THE MYTH OF PRISON SLAVE LABOR CAMPS IN THE U.S.

by James Kilgore

As Adam Gopkin reminds us, "mass incarceration on a scale almost unexampled in human history is a fundamental fact of our country today-perhaps the fundamental fact, as slavery was the fundamental fact of 1850." The racialization of this process, popularized by author Michelle Alexander as *The New Jim Crow*, has meant that African Americans in the U.S. now have more than triple the incarceration rate of Blacks in South Africa at the peak of apartheid.

In the haste to impart some rationality to all this, many activists and analysts have been quick to point to corporations as the sole culprits behind the prison-industrial-complex (PIC). An important component of this perspective is the notion of prisons as "slave labor camps". In this scenario a sea of multinational corporations super-exploit hundreds of thousands of contract prison laborers to heartlessly augment their bottom lines. Late last year researchers Steven Fraser and Joshua Freeman took up this point in a study which they presented in a *CounterPunch* article, arguing that "penitentiaries have become a niche market for such work. The privatization of prisons in recent years has meant the creation of a small army of workers too coerced and right-less to complain."

Their perspective has resonated with a number of news services, anti-mass incarceration blogsters and activists. For example, a recent report from Russian news service RT claimed that prisons are "becoming America's own Chinese style manufacturing line". Huffington Post picked up the story, quoting Fraser and Freeman:

"All told, nearly a million prisoners are now making office furniture, working in call centers, fabricating body armor, taking hotel reservations, working in slaughterhouses, or manufacturing textiles, shoes, and clothing, while getting paid somewhere between 93 cents and $4.73 per day."

The HuffPost went on to name Chevron, Bank of America, AT&T, Starbucks and Walmart as major participants in what they called a "competitive spiral" to capture prison labor at the lowest possible wage levels. Vicky Pelaez, writing for Global Research earlier this year called prison industry a "new form of slavery" identifying more than twenty corporations involved in contract arrangements. Her list included IBM, Pierre Cardin, Target and Hewlett Packard. She concluded that, "thanks to prison labor, the United States is once again an attractive location for investment in work that was designed for Third World labor markets."

As appealing as these scenarios are to our sense of moral outrage and the role of multinational corporations as the villains of our era, such assertions about prison labor are off the mark. I spent six and a half years in Federal and state prisons at high, medium and low security levels. In all these institutions, very few people, if any, were under contract to private corporations. My memories of prison yards feature hundreds and hundreds of men trying to pump some meaning into their life with exercise routines, academic study, compulsive sports betting, religious devotion, and a number of creative and entrepreneurial "hustles." But being under the thumb of Bill Gates or entering a Nike sweatshop was just about the farthest thing from our warehoused reality.

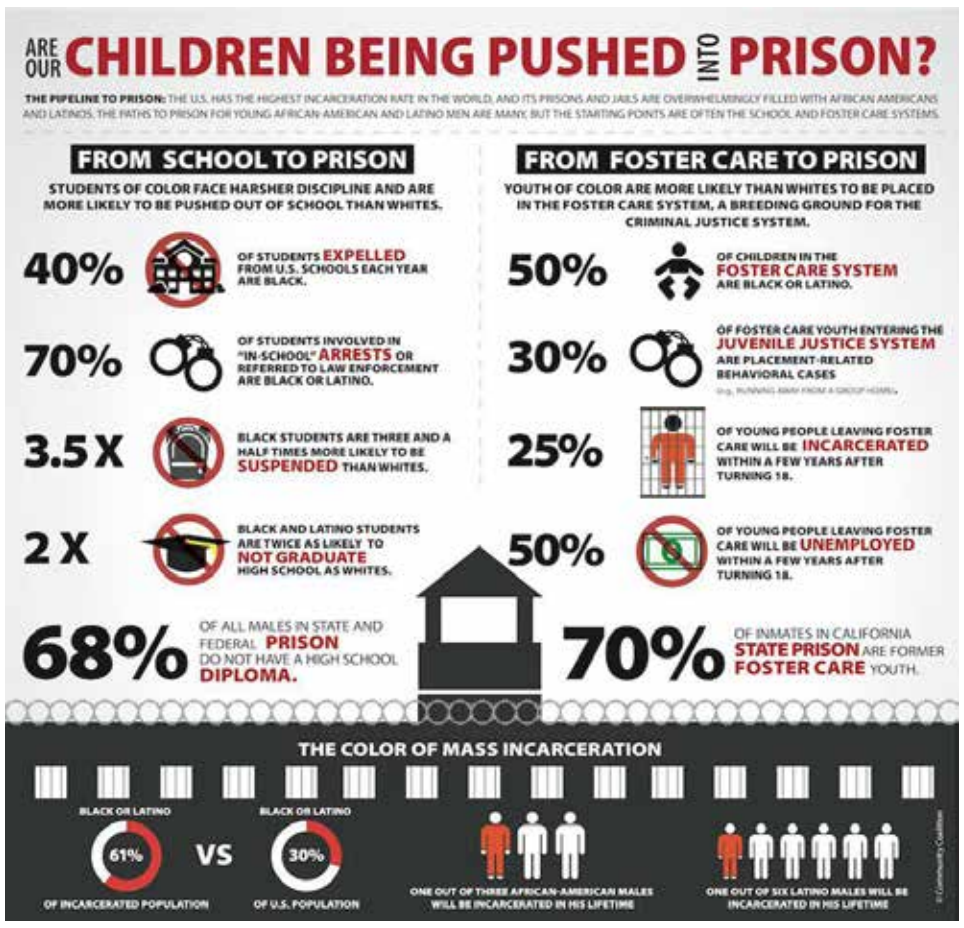
Statistics bear my memories out. Virtually all private sector prison labor is regulated under the Prison Industries Enhancement Certification Program (PIECP). Any prison wanting to publicly markets goods worth more than $10,000 must register with PIECP. The PIECP statistical report for the first quarter of 2012 showed 4,675 incarcerated people employed in prison or jail PIECP programs, a miniscule portion of the nation's more than two million behind bars.

Likely the largest single user of contract prison labor is Federal Prison Industries, which handles such arrangements for the Bureau of Prisons (BOP). Of the nearly 220,000 people housed in BOP facilities, just 13,369, representing approximately 8% of the work eligible "inmates" were employed as of September 30, 2012. However, the overwhelming majority of this production was for government departments like Defense and Homeland Security, rather than private corporations.

There is an economic rationality to why prison labor is so infrequently used. While incarcerated people may constitute a captive workforce, in the era of mass incarceration security trumps all other institutional needs, including production deadlines. A fight on the yard, a surprise cell search, even a missing tool can occasion a lockdown where all activities, including work assignments, come to a halt for hours, days, or, in some cases even weeks or months. Multinational corporations accustomed to just-in-time production systems and flexible working hours don't respond well to this type of rigidity.

Portraying our prisons as slave labor camps satisfies a certain emotional appeal, but hunting down multinationals that are extracting superprofits from the incarcerated diverts us from the crucial labor issues at the heart of mass incarceration. Those behind bars constitute a displaced and discarded labor force, marginalized from mainstream employment on the streets by deindustrialization in their communities and the gutting of urban education in poor communities of color. More than half of all Black men without a high-school diploma will go to prison at some time in their lives. The school to prison pipeline is far more of a reality than slave labor camps.

Plus, the shift of the prison system's emphasis from rehabilitation to punishment in the last three decades has blocked opportunities for people to upgrade skills and education while incarcerated. As the nuns used to tell me in grade school: "an idle mind is the devil's workshop and idle hands are the devil's tools." The brains behind our prison system clearly had the devil's welfare in mind when they reoriented our institutions away from rehabilitation into warehousing millions of people while stripping away their opportunities for personal and collective development. As a result purposelessness and excruciating boredom, not overwork, are the dominant features of most prison yards.



For those trying to put an end to mass incarceration, framing the labor issues of the prison industrial complex in this way takes us down a very different road than upgrading the conditions of the minute numbers behind bars who are under corporate contracts (or as some unions are want to do-portraying prison laborers as scabs who undermine hard won working class gains). The chief labor concerns about mass incarceration are linked to broader inequalities in the economy as a whole, particularly the lack of employment for poor youth of color and the proliferation of low wage jobs with no benefits. Employment creation and the restoration of much needed state provided social services like substance abuse or mental health treatment are the measures that will keep people on the streets. Forget about minimum wages for the mythical millions working for Microsoft in Leavenworth and Attica.

But the labor aspect of mass incarceration doesn't end there. People with a felony conviction carry a stigma, a brand often accompanied by exclusion from the labor market. Michelle Alexander calls "felon" the new "N" word. Indeed in the job world, those of us with felony convictions face a number of unique barriers. The most well-known is "the box"- that question on employment applications which asks about criminal background. Eleven states and more than 40 cities and counties have outlawed the box on employment applications. Supporters of "ban the box" argue that questions about previous convictions amount to a form of racial discrimination since such a disproportionate number of those with felony convictions are African-American and Latino. Advancing these *Ban the Box* campaigns will have a far more important impact on incarcerated people as workers than pressing for higher wages for those under contract to big companies inside.

However, even without the box, the rights of the formerly incarcerated in the labor market remain heavily restricted. Many professions, trades and service occupations which require certification, bar or limit the accreditation of people with felony convictions. For example, a study by the Chicago Mayor's office found that of 98 Illinois state statutes regarding professional licensing, 57 contained restrictions for applicants with a criminal history, impacting over 65 professions and occupations. In some instances, even people applying for licenses to become barbers or cosmetologists face legal impediments.

Those with felony convictions face further hurdles when trying to access state assistance to tide them over during times of unemployment. In most states, those with drug convictions are banned from access to SNAP (food stamps) for life. Many local public housing authorities bar people with felony convictions even if their parents or partners already reside there.

Lastly, the very conditions of parole often create obstacles to employment. Many states require that an employer of a person on parole agree that the workplace premises can be searched at any time without prior warning - hardly an attractive proposition for any business. In addition, tens of thousands of people on parole are subject to house arrest with electronic monitors. All movement outside the house must be pre-approved by their parole agent. This makes changes in work schedule or jobs that involve travel an enormous challenge. Some basic changes to the conditions of parole could constitute an important step to easing the labor market conditions for people coming home trying to secure and keep a job.

All of this is not to deny that many corporations have made huge amounts of money from mass incarceration. Firms like Arizona's Kitchell Construction, which has built more than 40 state prisons and 30 adult jails have made millions. The Tennessee-based Bob Barker Enterprises is a "household" name among the incarcerated. With a corporate vision of "transforming criminal justice by honoring God in all we do," Barker has reaped massive profits from producing the poorest quality consumer goods, including two inch toothbrushes, for people behind bars. Then, of course, we have private prison operators like CCA and the GEO Group. Although the privates control only 8% of prison beds nationally these two firms managed to bring in over 3 billion in revenue last year.

While such profiteering continues, the prison-industrial complex remains driven by an agenda that is more about politics than profits. State-owned prisons and political agendas continue to lie at the center of mass incarceration. The combined revenue of CCA and the GEO Group for 2012 was less than half of the California state corrections budget. Politicians, with important influence from pro-corporate organizations like the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), have made the PIC possible by passing harsh sentencing laws, funding the War on Drugs, tightening immigration legislation, and creating isolation units like Pelican Bay, Corcoran, Tamms and Angola. They have built a base of popular support for the "colorblind" approach of "lock 'em up and throw away the key." So while we need to curb the opportunities for corporate profit from putting people in cages, the main target of any campaign against the PIC must be to counter the racist ideology of "punitive populism" and reverse the political processes which perpetuate mass incarceration and the criminalization of the poor.

James Kilgore is a research scholar at the Center for African Studies at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign). He writes on issues of mass incarceration with a focus on electronic monitoring and labor.

Correction: In the last issue of ***Turning the Tide***, we printed the wrong address for the Prison Library Project. The correct address is:
Prison Library Project
915-C West Foothill Blvd.
Claremont, CA 91711

TEXAS & OREGON PRISON OFFICIALS CONSPIRE TO SILENCE NEW AFRIKAN BLACK PANTHER PARTY (PC)

REVOULTIONARY GREETINGS

By Comrade Malik in Texas (Captain of Information)

2013 is shaping up to be the year in which the imperialist-fascist oppressors are focusing their attack on political prisoners in Amerika.

Seek and Destroy

Earlier this year, February 2013, the Minister of Defense for the New Afrikan Black Panther Party (Prison Chapter), Kevin 'Rashid' Johnson, was the victim of what on its face looked to be a childish prank by a fellow prisoner. However, with the aid of Oregon State Prison employees, this "prank" nearly cost Rashid his life.

On the evening of Jan. 31, Rashid was given a pizza spread prepared by his neighbor. Unknown to Rashid, the food contained a mixture of psychotropic drugs. These had such an effect on Rashid that he felt the urge to kill himself! We are talking about a true soldier of the people, who has never attempted to take his life. Nevertheless, Rashid ingested an undisclosed quantity of anti-inflammatory medication, and then, as OSP officials saw their "quarry" in a vulnerable state of mind, they placed Rashid in a suicide observation cell which 'coincidentally' had a razor blade in it. Rashid proceeded to break the blade in three pieces and swallowed them. All this activity was witnessed by Oregon prison employees and captured on film. However, in a blatant attempt to cause harm to comrade Rashid, an Oregon prison doctor, Dr. Garth Gullick, refused to order x-rays which would have identified the location of the pieces of razor bladein Rashid's body in order to protect him from further injury. In a nutshell, Dr. Gullick ignored his Hippocratic oath to do no harm and acted as an agent of the state. He was deliberately indifferent to Rashid's medical needs.

Political Prisoners the Greatest Threat to National Security?

Comrades, it's not that Rashid is a physically imposing or violent man; he is not. As Minister of Defense of the NABPP (PC), Rashid continues to write provocative, politically charged articles which expose the true nature of this decadent Amerikan society. Comrade Rashid and many of us who are housed in AmeriKKKa's gulags utilize our pens, hearts and minds to push back against imperialism. If we had to rely on the corporate media, our voice or cries for help would never be heard. After exposing and protesting his treatment, Rashid was shipped to Snake River, a more restrictive OR prison

Drawing by Rashid

Then, a piece Rashid wrote was printed in Socialism and Democracy No. 61 (Vol. 27 #1) and posted online by the Huffington Post UK. The title: Political Struggle in the Teeth of Prison Reaction: From Virginia to Oregon. Apparently the director of the OR DOC took issue with the subject matter.

Rashid filed a federal civil complaint. Rashid was given an ultimatum, cease all legal actions against OR DOC or we will send you somewhere you don't want to be. Rashid did not budge from his position and as a response, OR transferred Rashid to Texas in June 2013. Not only had OR attempted to cause physical harm through medical neglect, but they were guilty of retaliatory actions connected to Rashid's lawsuit and to the Huffington Post UK piece and S&D article.

Why Texas?

Rashid was not sent to just any TX prison, he was sent to the infamous Estelle High Security Unit in Huntsville. I was housed there myself between May 2012 and March 2013 during which time I was degraded, dehumanized, mistreated and abused. Upon arrival, I was placed on C-Wing, which is infested with roaches, there's a pervasive stench of sewage, and the cells on one row have no electrical outlet for portable fans. In-cell temperatures sometimes exceeded 95°. I was called "Nigger" frequently by staff and prisoners alike. This is Texas, where Rashid is being housed right now! [Ed. note: In what amounts to a conspiracy between the prison systems of Virginia, Oregon and Texas – Rashid was a state prisoner in Virginia who has now been shipped to two other states under "inter-state compacts" usually used to deal with over-crowding issues – most of Rashid's extensive legal paper-work and other possessions are somewhere in limbo, further denying him exercise of his legal rights.]

Comrades, we of the NABPP (PC) are revolutionary socialists. The Black Riders Liberation Party are our 'free world' comrades and allies – we want the same things, pursue the same goals. Serving the people is Job #1. However, serving the people in this day and age comes with a price.

Rashid was sent to Texas with the express intent to break his revolutionary spirit! Texas operates with impunity, abusing and beating prisoners who are housed in their many Ad Seg, High Security, and Death Row units, all control and communication management units. Texas has perfected the art of modern torture which is prevalent throughout Amerika's prison system. The Feds have communication management units like the ones in Marion, IL and Terre Haute, IN. Sensory deprivation and behavior modification experiments take place every day. These units have been set up for the purpose of torturing the politics out of political prisoner. TX has utilized Estelle-HS Unit with that mission in mind. TX has targeted Black men and women, Latino men and women and white men and women who are politically advanced and dare speak truth to power. Muslim prisoners are of special interest to the racists and bigots who manage the TX Dept. of Criminal Injustice.

So Rashid was sent to TX because he dared to confront the imperialists. His voice is dangerous to the oppressors. His keen understanding of the revolutionary science brought into existence by Marx, Lenin and Mao is unique. It was Rashid's voice among other key events that awakened me 5 years ago. It's my duty to come to my comrade's aid and defense by exposing these sadistic crooked liars who violate the public's trust. Will you stand by while they attempt to silence his voice? Our voice? Won't you stand with me to confront these oppressors in TX?

Comrade Sundiata Acoli has said: "Political prisoners are those in every land and throughout every era who are imprisoned for fighting injustice in their societies, and the same holds true today for the relationship between mass injustice, mass incarceration and political prisoners in U$ society, and who must be freed! Not only political prisoners, but ALL those imprisoned by unjust policies."

Comrades, in this quote, don't you hear the mantra of the Jericho Movement? Isn't the spirit of the Panther resonating in his voice? We must unite and strive hard against the imperialist-fascist agenda that is taking over Amerika.

It's a blatant lie and false propaganda that says comrade Assata Shakur has planned or participated in terrorist acts against any human being. This simply is not the truth. Comrade Assata has used her voice and intellect to awaken and educate the minds of those held captive and enslaved by an imperialist system which preaches financial gain by any means. The needs of the people remain absent in their equations. Comrade Assata is far from a criminal –she is a hero. Keep your hands off Assata!

What about Patrice Lumumba Ford of the "Portland 7"? Oh, you oppressors thought we forgot? Abdullah, my Muslim brother, railroaded by a neo-con government that portrays devout Muslims as enemy combatants. Stay strong, Abdullah, freedom is coming, Insha-Allah. And what of Ms. Lynne Stewart? How long will we remain silent while she is ravaged by cancer and suffers in federal prison? What was her crime, Pres. Obama? She gave her client, the 'Blind Sheikh,' the best legal representation she could muster? If Trayvon could have been your son, couldn't Lynne have been someone close to your heart, as she is to ours? Oh, you don't hear me? Does she really deserve a death sentence?

There are too many comrades held captive, too many stories of injustice to tell. General T.A.C.O. of the Black Riders says the Dragon will soon fly out – and it will, but in the mean time, we must sharpen our intellects and prepare for the battle at hand and the one to come.

"…The determined will is rare, but it is not invariably benevolent. Furthermore, the American equation of success with 'big times' reveals an awful disrespect for human life and human achievement. This equation has placed our cities among the most dangerous in the world and has placed our youth among the most empty and most bewildered. The situation of our youth is not mysterious. Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them. They must, they have no other models. That is exactly what our children are doing…"—James Baldwin, *Nobody Knows My Name*

With that, I leave you with the question to ponder – Am I setting an example for our youth that will lead them to failure or true success? Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win! All Power to the People!

Comrade Malik in TX

Capt. Of Information, NABPP (PC)

You can contact Rashid or Malik via Twitch, Central Texas ABC & ABC Paralegal Services, PO Box 7187, Austin TX, 78713.

Write to Comrade Malik directly at Keith H. Washington (Comrade Malik), TDC #1487958, Wynne Unit, 810 FM 2821, Huntsville TX, 77349.

Write to Rashid direclty at: Kevin Johnson, TDC #01859887, Bill Clements Unit, 9601 Spur 591, Amarillo TX, 79107-9606.

Panther love!

Drawing by Rashid

ORANGE IS NOT NEW

...continued from page 2

in someone's contraband to get what she wants from the guards -- who are either one-dimensionally sadistic or two-dimensionally pitiful.

In transferring a work from the page, it's legitimate to alter the original. But *OITNB* goes way beyond this to disfigure the basic spirit of the book, refitting characters and story to suit TV's definition of "gripping."

In the book, for instance, Piper, new to prison camp, remarks that the food is so bad, there ought to be a hunger strike. She doesn't know the middle-aged Russian woman across from her is the cook. The cook, though hurt, warns Piper not to mention hunger strikes if she wants to avoid solitary. But on Netflix, the cook seethes, and next day at breakfast, Piper finds a bloody tampon on her muffin -- a cue to the camp's women that Piper is to be starved. Piper doesn't eat for days, til she figures out how to make amends.

Crazy Eyes, in the book, is a Latina who had a crush on Piper, but who backs off after Piper explains she isn't interested. Crazy Eyes, in the series, is a wigged-out Black butch, who after being refused, sneaks into Piper's cubicle to piss on the floor.

Occasionally, Netflix offers pockets of clarity: Poussey, a young Black woman, is able to catch a last desperate glimpse of her friend Taystee as she's released; Sophia, the only transgender woman, confides in the activist nun. Despite the show's moral flaws, the actors are competent, dimensional, skilled -- and deserve better.

Here's the thing. I've been visiting prisoners since 1988. I haven't known life inside, but I know what it's like to be the good friend of someone who may never get out. My partner's years inside color every aspect of our relationship. And whether you know it or not, prison colors every aspect of your life this country.

You want to see women in prison? Turn off your flat screen. Get involved. Teach a class. Write or visit someone inside. What will probably shock you most is how much you have in common.

Susie Day is a writer.

http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/2013/day180913.html

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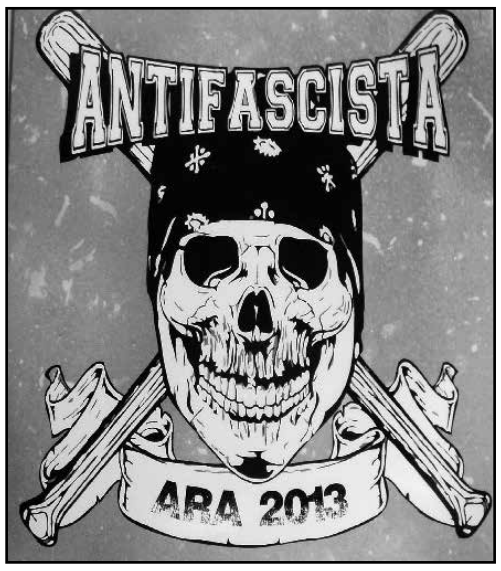

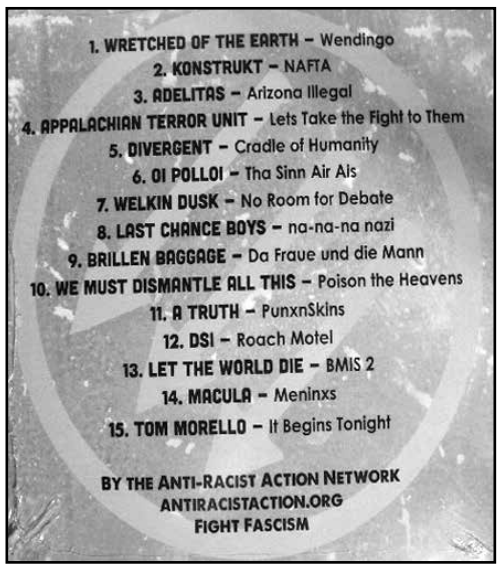

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A JOURNAL OF INTER-COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY

TURNING THE TIDE

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BUILDING INTERCOMMUNAL SOLIDARITY THRU PRISON WALLS

by Mutope Duguma

Our mission is to bring into practice an inter-social communal solidarity program that is specifically geared towards opening up cordial and conscious lines of communication to all political prisoners held in solitary confinement inside prisons throughout Amerika. Specifically we're referring to those built in rural areas where many of those political prisoners are isolated hundreds or even thousands of miles away from their family and friends. Just an example:

Abasi Ganda s/n Clyde Jackson #C33559, held 30 yrs.
Sundai K. Dumisani s/n Randall Ellis #C68764, held 30 yrs.
Abdul O. Shakur s/n James Harvey #C48884, held 30 yrs.
Mutope Duguma s/n James Crawford #D05996, held 13 yrs.

We intend to ask those human beings who already reside in these rural communities if they would be willing to work with us in establishing communication and contact with these political prisoners, in hopes of closing the disparity and distance gap between this specific class of prisoners and others. Such prisoners have been denied visiting, simply because of their family and friends' economic hardships. These conditions, combined with the distance, make it especially difficult to receive visits that require a great deal of sacrifice on the part of the visitors.

We believe that we are ALL a community, despite where we reside. So, we respectfully ask something of those who reside in these rural areas where we political prisoners are being held indefinitely in solitary confinement based on our politics. Would they be willing to contribute in an effort to help relieve in some way the burden prisoners are forced to bear because of this deprivation? They can do so simply by visiting them periodically, once or twice a month.

Many political prisoners have been held in solitary confinement for periods ranging from 5 up to 43 years for their political beliefs, and not violence as the state has so successfully propagandized. So this will not just be a service to the socially-conscious political prisoner; additionally, the visitor would also be rewarded with contact with a well-defined intelligent human being, who is well informed about the realities that exist within the political and social arena.

Write to Mutope:
Mutope Duguma s/n James Crawford
#D05996 D2-107up,
PBSP-SHU, PO Box 7500
Crescent City CA 95532

Inter-communal Expectations

1. The visiting schedule here at Pelican Bay State Prison SHU is as listed Saturday and Sunday only, but this may vary depending on what state or facility.
2. Correspondence is encouraged during the rest of the week or month, in order to develop familiarity with each other.
3. These visits are not about seeking personal relationships. They are more so geared towards providing inter-communal relations between political prisoners and community members, in an effort to develop socio-cultural understanding. Mostly, it allows the socially-conscious political prisoner relief every now and then from their perpetual solitary confined cells.
4. All political prisoners on the list are highly disciplined and have a high regard for humanity, regardless of their racial or class background.
5. We can no longer allow the state and federal governments to dictate how we as human beings continue to exist or to foment dissension based on race and class. It is our choice on how we elect to evolve as a people that will determine what kind of people we will be.

On Aug. 30, the Black Riders, new generation Panthers, posted up outside the CDCR-Parole office as part of a 75-deep solidarity rally for the hunger strikers in the SHUs.

THE BLACK RIDERS CONNECTION

Picture a hot summer day in South Central Los Angeles. News reports interrupt the normally scheduled program with an emergency flash across the TV screen. The notorious trigger-happy LAPD just gunned down another defenseless Black child in the heart of the ghetto for nothing other than the officers falsely assuming that the supposed "suspect" had a gun. The officers, equipped with numerous less-lethal and lethal high-powered weapons, once again crossed the line and chose to use deadly force against a Black civilian for being armed with a black cell phone. More information will be given during the News at 11:00 PM...

The TV screen is immediately turned off. A highly secret organized system of communication begins. All across Southern California, formerly hostile young Black men and women from the lumpen-proletariat warrior class brief to the tragic incident. This so-called justifiable homicide is not justified to them. The war drums beat louder and louder in their hearts as the information is passed around and down the rigid chain of command. The unification that binds them together is a bulletproof Black Love forged and steeled from an extreme knowledge of their African history and the savage white racist, capitalist oppression of over four hundred years. Outwardly they appear to be average Black youth, a part of the Hip Hop generation, until put under close examination and you notice the military discipline in their every movement. Only when they shed the XXXL T-shirts and oversized baggy sagging pants into Black berets, leather jackets, camouflage pants, and big Black boots will anyone really notice the last true armed Black Revolutionary organization. This extraordinary transformation in their appearance will take place when the coded messages reach the bottom of the rank and file membership and flow back up to the top of the Democratic Centralized structure. Soldiers who embody the undying loyalty to the new Black Liberation struggle emerge from cars, homes, low-income projects and off numerous street corners, clubs, college campuses. All of them are hard-faced, tough, and love their people!

This display of strength and unity among former gang banging young Blacks puzzles and shocks most people, especially the racist barbarian LAPD. This is something new, powerful and amazing to them. They had a long history of dealing with Blacks, and nothing was better known than the disunity, misguided rage, and animosity of one group toward another. How was this spectacle of over fifty different tribal individuals forming solid disciplined lines of unity under a Black leader to be explained? This was seen as a very real threat to the fascist Amerikkkan state. This Black unity will inspire massive Black Power, which, of course, will reduce white power and its domination of the whole earth. These formerly disunited individuals are now unified under my generalship, and we have opened a full-scale war against the evil forces of oppression, aimed at driving them out of every Black community in the US. The successful Black Panther military tactics of Huey Newton and the great General George Jackson are remembered and followed: careful, unhurried training and political organization; the secret movement of troops in small groups in different directions, all assembling at a stated time and place near enemy pig strongholds; then swift-moving, generally surprise attacks by different people on different centers of white supremacy. These operations took years of tedious and dangerous organizing in every hostile tribal area to build.

The real reason for the series of victories over the racist enemy is our extensive knowledge of revolutions on the planet, and our battle tested make up from growing up in the neo-colonial "Concrete Vietnam" of the Los Angeles gangland. We are now reaching out to other young Black Africans throughout the world because we realize that L.A. is not the only Black community that has been ravaged by the government created Black on Black violent crime. The fascist state smuggled drugs and guns into our communities to keep us fighting each other instead of attacking them like during the late 1960's and early 1970's. These were just some of the weapons and tactics used to destroy the old Black liberation movement.

We have begun to change the Black on Black violent criminal mentality into a Black Revolutionary mentality. The so-called Lost Generation X is now beginning to morph into Generation Malcolm X!

By General T.A.C.O.,
Black Riders, new generation Black Panther Party
All Power to the People!
To join or form a prison or other chapter,
Call 323-289-4457
Write PO Box 8297, Los Angeles 90008

YEAR IN REVIEW

– **November 2012**. The Black Riders Liberation Party, new generation Black Panthers (BRLP) initiate the ISC in Los Angeles, CA as an alliance with anti-racist activists, radicals in Occupy from various communities, a collective of radical sex workers, and others. ISC launches several serve the people programs, such as Break the Lock and Hood Health.
– **December 2012**. ISC joined the Sex Worker Outreach Project of Los Angeles (SWOP-LA) to observe the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers, especially police terrorism.
– **January 2013**. ISC has several community meetings to draw up "Guiding Principles," drawing inspiration from George Jackson's "Unitary Conduct," Huey P. Newton's "Revolutionary InterCommunalism" and General T.A.C.O.'s updated form of African intercommunalism.
– **February 2013**. ISC hosts a celebration of ***Turning The Tide***'s 25th Anniversary. Hood Health fundraises for original BPP comrade Elder Freeman, for medical treatment for cancer in Cuba. We also join with Stop LAPD Spying Coalition to protest police racism after the pigs' execution of Christopher Dorner.
– **March 2013**. Hood Health holds a Community Health Forum at the So Cal Library with AIDS and blood pressure testing, and traditional health information
– **April 2013**. ISC joins comrades in East LA as they liberate Parque de Mexico for the 19th consecutive year. The BRLP is honored with the "Continuing the Struggle" Award by the Black Panther Party Alumni Association presented by Kathleen Cleaver. Break The Lock, the ISC prisoner solidarity program, presents at USC's annual "Cruelty Conference."
– **May 2013**. ISC joins the Southern California Immigration Coalition May Day demo in downtown LA. We stand with Black USC students charged after a brutal attack at an off-campus party by LAPD. ISC also hosts a birthday party honoring Sandino, Ho Chi Minh, Malcolm X and Yuri Kochiyama.
– **June 2013**. Break the Lock organizes a fundraiser. George Jackson Freedom School begins its summer session. Comrades cosponsor the appearance of Theresa Shoats, daughter of Russell Maroon Shoatz, and Rene Valdez of Scientific Soul Sessions, as part of national campaign to release Maroon.
– **July 2013**. ISC joins many others outside Corcoran State Prison in solidarity with hunger strikers. Black Riders lead community outrage against acquittal of Trayvon Martin's killer with solidarity from the ISC in Leimert Park, Hollywood, and Westwood.
– **August 2013**. In response to the pigs' threat to force-feed prisoner hunger strikers, ISC joins the BRLP's call and form a coalition that shuts the main local CDCR office for a day.
– **September 2013**. ISC and others pack the Inglewood courtroom for two Black Rider sisters, Mecca & Etana Shakur, who successfully defended themselves against a racist male pig, and face charges of battery on an officer.
– **October 2013**. ISC chapter consolidates in the Bay Area in conjunction with the Oakland chapter of Black Riders.
– **November 2013**. On Assata Shakur Liberation Day, BRLP organizes and the ISC supports a screening of "Let Um Hear Ya Comin," a documentary that highlights the Black Riders 18 years patrolling with their Watch-a-Pig program, featuring comrades in the Oakland/Bay Area.
– **December 2013**. ISC participates in "Prison Bars Can't the Flow" a spoken word benefit for ***TTT***.

Martin Luther King, Women, & the Movement

[Speech written 1/3/14] © 2014 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

We meet today in the vast shadow of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and that is fitting for much like his contemporary, Min. Malcolm X, he had the capacity to grow beyond his social, cultural, religious and even class programming.

But before we go deep, it is fitting that we thank Drs. Tanisha Ford and Hakima Abbas, your forum co-chairs of this event, for their kind invitation; and our fellow forum contributors, Dr. Johanna Fernandez, Alexis Pauline Gumba, Christopher Tinson, Jamilah Wilson, Walidah Imarisha, Noelle Hanrahan, The Cornel West Theory –and others to come. Thank you, too, to The Feminist Wire, for covering this event.

How does Dr. King's life inform our discussion of issues that we face today, at the dawn of a new century? Issues as complex and diverse as the LGBT community's trek and treatment through the criminal justice system; Black women, the nation's fastest-growing prison population; social and systematic violence against Black women and girls; the rape culture that permeates modern day American society; or feminism as a social force which broadens our perspectives of the prison-industrial-complex?

If Dr. King were alive today, he'd be 85 years old. But, he is not. Yet, his ideas deepened through the experience of movements, and perhaps more importantly, his inspiration, remains.

For the Civil Rights Movement has had a profound impact on the nation, the world and movements to come. But Martin, reared as he was in the bosom of a conservative, privileged, middle class Baptist family, seemed ill-prepared for the topsy-turvy, hurly-burly struggles of the era, when Blacks were compelled to struggle against their racial, class, gender and national oppressions.

Given his background of privilege, he found confident, outspoken, activist women hard to take. This was perhaps best seen in his interactions with activist/organizer Ella Baker. For, let us be clear. Like many, perhaps most men, King was sexist and chauvinistic. As a man of his class, and his profession, he expected deference – especially from women.

Ella Baker, a brilliant skillful organizer, was unable to defer to any of the spiritual and national leaders of the time. She opposed, on principle, the idea of charismatic leadership, preferring instead, for collective leaders drawn from their work among the people. She was among the founders of SCLC, founded the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and had traveled the country organizing as field secretary for the NAACP. In Baker's words, she knew she wouldn't make it among the ministers of SCLC, explaining:

"There would never be any role for me in a leadership capacity with SCLC. Why? First, I'm a woman. Also, I'm not a minister. And …I knew that my penchant for speaking honestly…would not be well tolerated. The combination of the basic attitude of men, and especially ministers, as to what the role of women in these church setups is – that of taking orders, not providing leadership – and the …ego problems involved in having to feel that there is someone who…had more information about a lot of things than they possessed at the time. This would never have lent itself to my being a leader in the movement there."(Dyson 195)

King felt "uncomfortable" around Baker, and other women of her type. She had a saying: "strong people don't need strong leaders. (Abu-Jamal 159). She also wasn't keen on building national organizations, she believed in building movements.

King, as a man transformed by the burgeoning movement around him, tried mightily to adapt to it, but it wasn't easy. For, like many men, King had a weakness for female flesh. He felt guilty about it, yes –but he indulged, for he couldn't say no. In this conflict between flesh and spirit, flesh inevitably won out.

Many of us associate Dr. King with his last big movement push: the Poor People's Campaign.

When he accepted the invite of National Welfare Rights Organization executive director, George Wiley, to address their board, he experienced a rude awakening. For the NWRO board was staffed by women, and they felt offended because they had advanced the idea of a poor people's campaign before the SCLC. When King sat down with the board they shocked him with their aggressiveness, and their radical thinking. When King was given the floor, he stated his ideas, and solicited their support.

NWRO first vice-chair Etta Horn asked him for his views on Public Law 90-248. King was dumbfounded. NWRO leader Johnnie Tillmon (a woman), told King that Horn "meant the Anti-Welfare Bill, HR 12080", passed by Congress the year before and signed into law by President Johnson in January 1967. King, again, had no clue. Tillmon pressed her advantage, asking pointedly, "Where were you…when we were down in Washington trying to get support for Senator Kennedy's amendments?"

King, the leader of the movement, was helpless before welfare mothers on top of their game. Johnnie Tillmon, seeing him and his staff getting defensive said, "You know, Dr. King, if you don't know about these questions, you should say you don't know, and then we could go on with the meeting." King agreed, saying, "You're right,

Mrs Tillmon, we don't know anything about welfare, we're here to learn." Dyson 208-9

And he did. He listened. He learned. That learning re-shaped, deepened and broadened his ideas. He outgrew many of his earlier notions, and became, increasingly, socialist in his economic orientation, anti-capitalist, and, quite rare for the time among Black civil rights leaders, deeply anti-war.

While Martin, as preacher, might've brought women to church, it must also be said that women, as teachers, took him to school.

For, at the heart, at the very core of both church and the movement, were women. Their faith, their wisdom, their knowledge, their visions of a better tomorrow, fed those expressions, and gave them life.

Martin's martyrdom may've ended his individual existence, but it did not still the movement. For movements spread, grow, deepen and develop. The civil rights movement gave space and life to the Black Liberation movement, the women's movement, the Latina movement, the gay movement – and beyond. That's because those democratic energies could not be repressed forever. When King burst through, he opened doors that had been soldered shut in American society.

One of the most radical of the Black Liberation groups to sprout in the post-King period was the Black Panther Party, founded two years before King's assassination, by two college students. Although assuredly the BPP was weighted with a decidedly macho image, what with the berets, the Black leather jackets, and, lest we forget – guns. It was most assuredly, not an all male collective. Indeed, quite the reverse is true.

The BPP had a majority of female members and a good number of women led local sections, or even captaincies in cities. Indeed, the BPP was the only formation of the era to have a woman in complete command of the group (under Elaine Brown) (LeBlanc-Ernest 309).

Was the Black Panther Party sexist? Yes, without question. But within a sexist society, who was not? If King, with all of his extraordinary education and gifts, was trapped within the dark amber of sexism, what of men who had no such learning, who learned from the streets? That said, the BPP leadership announced at this very time that it supported women's liberation -- and gay lib, to boot. Party co-founder, Huey P. Newton mused, "…Maybe they might be the most oppressed people in society."

Frankye Malika Adams, from the Brooklyn chapter of the Party, said, "Women ran the BPP pretty much. I don't know how it got to be a male's party or thought of as a male's party." She knew what every male Panther knew, that despite what the newspapers reported, without women, who made sure the work got done, every day, the organization would not have lasted as long, nor did as well, as it did. Period. (Abu-Jamal 164)

Women form the core of movements. They organize, as did Ella Baker. They lead, as did Elaine Brown. They do the work, to make organizations – and movements – work. And given the sexism extant in a capitalist society, it rarely gets reported, much less known.

But the simple truth is that revolution is women's work. And men's work. It is the work of all of us, working as comrades. Kathleen Cleaver was a member. She joined the Party, and is today a law professor working against the prison-industrial-complex. Safiya Asya Bukhari was a college student, who was intrigued by the Party Breakfast for Children Program. When she was threatened by cops, she quit college, joined the Party, and later ran the Party's East Coast organization from the Bronx headquarters. She later led and commanded units of the Black Liberation Army, before she returned to the ancestors.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was made, both literally and figuratively, by women. They educated him, even when he didn't want to be educated. Again, as Baker stated, "Martin didn't make the movement; the movement made Martin."

Progressive and liberatory social movements are energized and sustained by the gifts women bring with them. They broaden our perspectives on issues of women, gender, and how, under capitalism, all within the prisons of capital are exploited, atomized, made to war against each other, to preserve the rulers.

Martin opened doors to rooms he did not know existed; but he did so, with the hope that it would lead to greater social justice, and fairness. In one of his latter speeches before SCLC, King presented a synthesis of his ideas, calling for a radical restructuring of the entire system: "We are called upon to help the discouraged beggars in life's marketplace. But one day we must come to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring." He continued this questioning, openly, in ways he had done privately: "… Who owns the oil?...Who owns the iron ore? Why is it that people have pay water bills in a world that is two-thirds water?" King of 1967, was a different man than that of 1965; a deeper man. Such a man as this would say this:

"A nation that would keep people in slavery for 244 years will "thingify" them, make they things. Therefore they will exploit them, and poor people generally, economically. And a nation that will exploit will have to have foreign investments…and will have to use its military might to protect them. All of these problems are tied together." (Dyson 84)

It is a measure of some irony that King couldn't bring himself to work closer with one of the most talented organizers of the era: Ella Baker. For, some 30 years before her career as a civil rights organizer bloomed, she co-wrote, with colleague, Marvel Cooke, a remarkable article published in the NAACP journal, *The Crisis*, which revealed the venal nature of capitalism for poor Black women in Harlem. They wrote: "Not only is human labor bartered and sold for the slave wage, but human love is also a marketable commodity. Whether it is labor or love, the women arrive as early as eight am and remain as late as one pm, or until they are hired. In rain or shine, hot or cold, they wait to work for ten, fifteen, and twenty cents per hour." [Zinn 404]

This, the naked face of capitalism, where one sells their flesh to eat, was an insight that Baker knew, but it took a lifetime of King to glimpse. Capitalism eats its own, for there are no Chinese walls, nor sacred barriers – it is buy and sell – money–trading as the highest value of life.

It shows us all how far the Movement has yet to go.

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An Armed People in Mexico and Their Threat to the State

Armed self-defence groups in Michoacan retake a town from Narcos.

by Juaquin Cienfuegos

The current situation in Mexico is tense, one that has put social movements and the people in general on one side, and the government and other organized criminals on the other. Where the Mexican government has shown over and over where their true interests lie, the people are not only fending for themselves but building on the possibility for a much larger struggle to take place in Mexico.

In Mexico the government has passed "reforms" that benefit capitalist interests and neo-liberalism, along with other organized crime cartels. Local and federal police and military have terrorized communities throughout Mexico and indigenous people in particular. One can get a sense that the people have had enough. There have been a resurgence of social movements throughout led by students and teachers (www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7ydRS9G56Y - Interview with member of the Seccion XXII – Teacher's Union Oaxacan Section) to combat some of the privatization that is coming from imperialist countries like the U.S. and Canada, and their puppet Pena Nieto PRI regime. There have always been armed resistance movements in Mexico, such as the Ejercito Zapatista de Liberacion Nacional, and other guerrillas who have also openly declared war against the government (www.signalfire.org/?p=26168).

Along with these movements, communities, and in particular indigenous communities, have taken it upon themselves to arm, and defend themselves against not only the cartels, but also local police and local politicians. These cops and officials not only work with the cartels, they have proven to be on their side or one and the same. In some cases as in the Purepecha indigenous community of Cheran, Michoacan, the people rose up to drive out the local police and politicians, and reinstate their indigenous model of self-organization and self-defense (for further reading www.elenemigocomun.net/2013/01/self-determination-defense-cheran).

The self-defense groups have been organizing themselves and have seized towns throughout Mexico in over 11 states to fight against cartels like the Knights Templar in Michoacan, under the Consejo de Autodefensas Unidas de Michoacan (Council of United Self-Defense Groups of Michoacan). The Mexican government just sent their military to disarm them in Parácuaro , according to reports shooting 7-12 and killing 4 people, including an 11 year old girl, only to later return their weapons due to public pressure. People from Parácuaro came out to the main road to confront the military with sticks and stones, which forced them to return the weapons to the Autodefensas (Self-defense Groups).

The Mexican government definitely understands the situation and sees an armed and self-organized people as a threat, but understands there will be political consequences. The self-defense groups know very well what they are fighting for, and what side the government is on. After the clash between them and the military, the spokesperson for el Consejo de Autodefensas Unidas de Michoacán was quoted saying "What we are doing is fighting for the freedom of our families... the people don't trust the government... there are sectors of the government working with organized crime... We are never going to lay down our arms or sit down to negotiate until they stop the criminals. (www.aristeguinoticias.com/1401/mexico/el-ejercito-rafagueo-a-nuestro-pueblo-autodefensas-en-michoacan)"

The military attacking the Autodefensas shows what side they're on. It shows that not only are they protecting the Knights, but also that an armed people pose a bigger threat to their power. They are not trying to combat "organized crime" at all, because they are the criminals who benefit from the "drug war." People having autonomy, self-organization, and self-determination of their own communities exposes the illegitimacy of their neo-colonial government, so they will not only try to disarm them, but destroy them. The state does not care about the people dying in the first place, that is why communities saw that there was a need to come together. But not only that, they understand their movement is part of a larger struggle in Mexico:

"We are simply not just a group of armed persons, we are a people, we are thousands, We are a CONSEJO DE AUTODEFENSAS DE MICHOACAN, formed by small businessmen and women, farmers... students, parents... we are a people united, and we all will participate."

They now control 14 municipalities and 67 towns in Michoacan. Having a defense for your community, is something indigenous people have always done. These warrior societies and organizations have always existed and do to this day. What Mexico needs is a revolution... an armed and organized people is the first step.

This article was originally published at www.joaquincienfuegos.blogspot.com/2014/01/an-armed-people-and-their-threat-to.html. For additional perspectives and information about the armed self-defense groups, see www.apiavirtual.net/2014/01/20/invierno-caliente-en-michoacan/#more-63023 and other commentaries on apiavirtual.net.

FEMINISM, FREE TRADE & COLONIAL/CAPITALISM

By Swaneagle Harijan

Molly Molloy recently contributed a piece in the Texas Observer debunking the supposed "myth" of femicide in Juarez.. It's too easy to dismiss such a deeply disturbing grisly reality. Yes, as she says, more men have been killed, which is also the case in Guatemala City, which has surpassed Juarez and Chihuahua in numbers, well past several thousand as far as sexualized killings of women. More women die in Houston, as she says. But that other situations are even worse only means that something is terribly wrong in the Amerikkkas. Free Trade is at the root of globalized abuse. The sharp increase in violent deaths escalated with NAFTA as well as increases in trafficking, weapons and drugs.

The term femicide was coined after the mass rapes and killings of women in Sudan and the term spread wherever mass sexualized killings of women occurred. Such sexualized killings have spread from tens of thousands of women in the Congo, many left alive to cope with hideous wounds to their vaginas, to men as well. Rape is now targeting more and more men. Still, it is femicide that continues being a growing norm in many more countries. It is the ultimate degradation of women and I believe its roots reach back to the Inquisition and Spanish colonization, and to the US military, Kit Carson, Sand Creek, Vietnam and so many cases where rape and sexual mutilation is used as a weapon of war. It is complex and horrific.

The Molloy interview does a grave disservice to the families whose mothers, daughters and sisters were hideously violated on their way to death. I first learned of the killings from Cecelia Rodriguez, a US spokesperson for the Zapatistas brutally gang raped by Mexican soldiers in Chiapas, when she spoke in Olympia in 1999. At that time she placed the number of women killed at 100. By the way, domestic violence leading to death is considered femicide as well, even if the perpetrator is known and related to the victim. Molloy seems to feel that if the perpetrator is known, it's not femicide.

In 2004 I drove the mother of one of the murdered young women of Juarez on a West Coast speaking tour. It was torture for her to recount the nightmare of her 16-year-old daughter's disappearance, then the discovery of her mutilated, raped body, but she felt she had to in order to alert people to the problem and help find a solution. When women's bodies are so disfigured, nipples cut or bitten off, vaginas torn and signs of torture for days before death, one has to wonder what kind of monsters are we dealing with? Have any of these heinous killers

been apprehended? I have yet to really feel that the most disturbing murders have been solved.

Last I checked there were over 1000 women killed in Juarez and Chihuahua. I do not mean to discount the much more numerous deaths of men. I have been a marginalized woman most of my life as a single below-poverty-level grandmother who raised several mixed race children alone. I have been raped several times by men I knew. I am very familiar with the disdain of Amerikkkan patriarchy and all its trappings of misogyny. It's this frame of reference, and the countless stories women have told me about being raped and/or battered, that led me to become involved in doing what I could to educate others about femicide in Juarez, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, US, and on and on.

The way women are demeaned is not to be ignored. One has only to look at the sexual assault by the tens of thousands each year in the US Military, many are men raped by other men, to see that there is a serious strain of depravity being perpetrated. It can't be cut off from what is happening to women and men all over the Amerikkkas and anywhere the US military is based and its trainees carry out their heinous deeds. In the Pacific NW alone, we had our Bermuda Triangle of femicide of prostitutes in Spokane, Seattle and Vancouver, BC carried out by Robert Yates, Gary Ridgeway (Green River Killer) and Robert Pickton respectively. All three had once been apprehended by police but were released to go on killing more women. Robert Yates was in the military and part of a 2nd amendment militia in New York State before being based at Fairchild AFB in Spokane. Gary Ridgeway was a conservative Christian who believed he was helping police by killing prostitutes. The School of Assassins in Fort Benning, GA has produced many death squads and dictators who learned rape as a weapon of war. Los Zetas, one of the most notorious Mexican Cartels, were founded by mutinous Mexican troops trained at the SOA. Kaibiles, US-trained death squads in Guatemala, were known for hacking open pregnant Mayan women and were involved in doing the same in Acteal, Chiapas, Mexcio in 1997, killing 45 people total. Many Kaibiles also mutinied and joined cartels in Mexico and Central America.

What I want to know from Molly Molloy, is why she does not even mention the fact that sexualized killings of women occur with increasing numbers in Guatemala, Honduras, etc. The guns used by cartels came primarily from US gun shows along the Mexican border. What is also worth noting is that the young women killed in Jaurez were not prostitutes, but maquiladora workers or students, for the most part. Being poor and brown is a marked disadvantage in the free trade atmosphere. Marginalized women are most vulnerable. All of the killing must stop. The men are not less valuable, but it's men who do most of the killing, and many of them 'play' with women before snuffing them.

The killings must be examined in the context of free trade, development and profit. We can't ignore the criminal disaster-capitalism that impacts all our lives or separate it from the loss of life to the most marginalized peoples in our communities. Indigenous women are the most murdered cultural group in the US and Canada. Right now there are two particularly disturbing deaths of indigenous women in Seattle that remain unsolved. I know the family of one of those women. It does not take long before the structural violence of these killings reaches each one of us one way or another. Unprecedented apathy harms all life and we all face terminal times. Will we continue to ignore the glaring crisis?

Razor Wire Plantations: Amerika's Addiction to Slavery, Cruelty and Genocide

by Kevin "Rashid" Johnson (excerpts)

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) has been recognized by the federal courts to be among Amerika's most abusive prison systems, where a "culture of sadistic and malicious violence" reigns, involving the seeming inability of correctional officers to keep their hands off prisoners. Though this is acknowledged, Texas officials have done nothing to rein these abuses in. Because, like the inherently abusive and oppressive nature of the overall Amerikan criminal injustice system - it's all by design.

Compelling Submission to Slavery

Government sanctioned brutality underlies the U.S. prison system; just as it did the U.S. chattel slave system of which the prison system is a continuation; and just as it did the German Nazi concentration camp system. Under the old Amerikan slave system it was admitted that people will not willingly submit to bondage. The human spirit rebels against such a condition. Therefore the wealthy interests whose power, prestige and wealth itself relied on slave labor, had to devise a system which would compel the submission of those kept in bondage.

So they dehumanized their victims to strip them of all claims to human dignity, compassion and consideration. But this was not enough to force them to submit to slavery. "This was to be done… by means of beatings, whippings, or any similar form of violent ...punishment or humiliation. Sociologically speaking, this illustrates clearly that the South had become a society ...compelled to resort to ...coercive force because of the ultimate failure of law to support or enforce subservient behavior in slaves."

Because slavery is the basis of the U.S. prison system, (as embodied in the 13th Amendment to the Constitution), this same resort to brutality to exert "control" pervades it. So as was done with the slaves, U.S. prisoners are projected to the public as objects of suspicion, fear, and hate. In this sense, we are the new "niggers." When guards wish to demean us, we're often told we're only "offenders," which means, less than human. Yet in reality, the only thing that differentiates us from the 'public' (and who can say they've never violated any laws of the oppressive state?), is we've suffered the indignity of having the government brand us 'criminals'.

As the guards who run these prisons frequently admit to us, the only difference between us and them is they've "never been caught." Which makes them the worse hypocrites, who devote their lives to punishing others (breaking up homes, families and communities, and subjecting us to all manner of abuses in the process) for violating laws that they don't respect themselves.

In Amerika, people of color and the poor (traditional "niggers" and poor social "trash") are the primary targets of aggressive policing, criminal prosecution and mass imprisonment. Criminal injustice in Amerika is far from blind - and definitely ain't colorblind.

The boom of mass imprisonment in the last decades is aptly recognized as a "New Jim Crow" system for disparaging and disposing of marginalized racial and national minorities. But what accompanies this system, that many aren't aware of, is raw slavery, which could not exist without dehumanizing its victims. Once U.S. prisons are recognized to be a system of enslavement, and the lie is exposed that slavery in Amerika was ever abolished, the abusive conditions that pervade them make perfect sense. Let's take the TDCJ where I'm presently imprisoned for example.

Post-bellum Slavery

With 109 prisons and over 152,000 prisoners, Texas operates Amerika's largest state prison system. And every prisoner confined in Texas is forced to work without pay. Only those few with documented serious medical or mental health conditions which impair work performance, and those held in the TDCJ's torturous segregation units, are not made to work. Often those with health exemptions are still forced to work -- their exemptions being simply ignored. Those who refuse are punished, thrown in segregated confinement, and their imprisonment is extended.

The Texas prison system is organized around its prisoner labor, with prisoners performing every job short of running the cell blocks. Until federal courts banned it in the 1980's, prisoners were doing this too, working as "building tenders" whom guards armed with pipes, knives and bats, and gave impunity to terrorize other prisoners (through beatings, rape and extortion) to keep order for the administrators. Prisoners also substituted for medical staff.

TDCJ prisoners still do everything from growing all the food we eat (and which the TDCJ also sells commercially for profit), raising livestock and crops on TDCJ-owned farmland (which are aptly called "colonies"), to building and maintaining the prisons that hold us. Prisoners. "Hoe squads" of prisoners plant, tend and harvest everything using manual labor like field slaves or Third World peasants, while armed guards on horseback "oversee" them. Prisoners, like the slaves, refer to the overseers as "bossman."

The TDCJ also runs Texas Correctional Industries, which uses prisoners' slave labor to make everything from the clothes we and the guards wear (made from prisoner-grown cotton) and commercial garments, boots, state and U.S. flags, to the cell doors, beds, lockers, commode units, and walls and fixtures that go into the prisons. Texas prisoners literally forge the chains that bind them.

TDCJ does not provide prisoners with clothing for cold winters or scorching summers, like long underwear, gloves, shorts, t-shirts, etc. We purchase such items (clothes the prisoners make without payment) from the commissaries using money we get friends and family to send us. Most prisoners have little to no outside support. Those who don't receive money are allowed to mail only five 1-oz. letters a month, whose cost is a debt we must repay if we receive any money. Prisoners are forced to devise hustles and schemes to generate means of acquiring

clothes, hygiene supplies (which the TDCJ also does not give us), and even food.

Most TDCJ prisons lack air-conditioning, so slave labor is performed in the Texas heat, which is worse for those who work inside unventilated buildings. Even guards protest the lack of climate-control in the prisons. Prisoners have dropped dead from these conditions and have been forced to refuse life-sustaining medications to avoid the potentially fatal effects that these medicines can cause from extreme exertions in hot weather. TDCJ administrators, whose own offices are air-conditioned, could care less.

Typical of systems of enslavement, the 'owners' live in luxury at the slaves' expense, generally care nothing about the health of their workers, especially when the slaves are easily replaced from a steady supply of surplus workers. This was the case during the trans-Atlantic slave trade and Nazi concentration camps. Those slaves were starved, denied health care, and worked to death. But it was only called genocide when its focus was 'white' people.

Real Genocide

Many don't realize it was the exploitation of slave labor that helped drive the Nazis' genocidal program against Poles, Gypsies (Sintis and Romanis), Jews, Slavs, the mentally disturbed, and others. People swept up into concentration camps were worked to death, to sustain German corporations and the Nazi state and military that served them. Similarly TDCJ's prisoner health care system has been recognized as unresponsive to the needs of its prisoners. But for federal court intervention in the 1980's, prisoners were made to rely on only their peers for health care. The property of U.S. prisoners is confiscated and kept by arresting police under "civil forfeiture" laws. Remember that the Nazis, like the slavers of North Amerika, legitimized their inhumane practices in laws.

Then there's the high incidence of communicable deadly diseases like chronic hepatitis, HIV and AIDS, which circulate in US prisons at pandemic levels and go largely untreated. One documented example was found in the VA Dept. of Corrections where I was confined for 21 years, and for whom TX is holding me. The situation was exposed by the ACLU in a 2003 report which found the VDOC was deliberately allowing deadly diseases to circulate untreated among its prisoners, while in violation of Virginia's laws VDOC officials deliberately falsified reports on the levels of prisoner hep-c infection and those dying from it. The report revealed that the VDOC was refusing to treat over 10,000 known HCV cases (over a full third of its entire prison population). Note that one practice for which the Nazis were found guilty of "crimes against humanity" during the Nuremberg Trials, was their confining Germans and others under conditions where epidemics ran rampant. If such acts were crimes for which German leaders were punished with execution, they are no less crimes when committed by US officials.

Just as Nazi propaganda did, the Amerikan government and media join in villainizing minority groups. They selectively criminalize actions stereotyped as behaviors typical of these groups. Both societies systematically used prisons to dispose of mentally disabled people, and to portray 'criminal' inclinations as biologically innate to certain undesirable minority groups. While New Afrikans/Blacks are 13% of the US population, we are over half the prison population, a population forbidden to procreate. This has genocidal implications. While the Nazis were explicit in their eugenics policies, the U.S. objectively carries out similar practices in imprisoning Black males and undermining births within this social group.

Michelle Alexander revealed the economic incentive behind mass imprisonment of New Afrikan/Black males, because we no longer have economic worth to Amerika on the streets. She observed that genocidal policies have been applied to peoples who find themselves in this position.

"...we have witnessed an evolution in the US from a racial caste system based on exploitation (slavery), to one based largely on subordination (Jim Crow), to one defined by marginalization (mass incarceration). While marginalization may sound far preferable to exploitation, it may prove to be even more dangerous. Extreme marginalization, as we have seen throughout world history, poses the risk of extermination."

"The intuition of those residing in ghetto communities that they had become disposable was rooted in real changes in the economy - changes that have been devastating as factories closed, jobs disappeared, and all who had the means to flee the ghetto did. The sense among those left behind that society no longer has use for them, and that the government now aims to get rid of them, reflects a reality that many of us who claim to care prefer to avoid."

Slavery Does Not Teach Freedom

As one Texas prisoner pointed out to me, the TDCJ's slave system teaches prisoners how to become thieves, swindlers and predators. Most have little or no outside financial support, and where the TDCJ doesn't pay them any wages for work, they can only obtain things they need and want by stealing, conning or preying on others. In some cases they are driven by necessity.

Like in the Nazi ghettoes and prison camps, TDCJ prisoners do not receive nutrition adequate to maintain good health under conditions of hard labor. Per its own policy, the daily calorie intake of TDCJ prisoners does not exceed 2500 calories, which is the minimum daily calorie intake needed for a sedentary to only moderately active adult to maintain good health. These prisoners are performing the same grueling labor as yesterday's chattel slaves, and require the same level of daily nutrition. Yet TDCJ prisoners are provided less nutrition than were the slaves of yesterday. Chattel slaves were recognized as needing 4200 to 5400 calories per day to perform their labor, particularly as field hands. TDCJ does not serve any fresh fruits to its prisoners, and serves desserts at only one meal per week. This denies basic nutrients and glucose needed for health and energy. Leaving prisoners hard pressed to find ways to supplement their diet, which calls for their engaging in hustles, theft and preying on other prisoners - anti-social behaviors that will follow them back to society.

Slavery doesn't teach people to be free. It dehumanizes, which is why international law to which the U.S. is a signatory outlaws slavery in all its forms.

With the majority of TX's prison population being people of color, Texas one of the country's most notoriously racist states, and its prisons practicing old style slavery, it requires no stretch of the imagination to recognize a large percentage of its staff are racist. In fact in a recent *NY Times* article by a TDCJ guard, it was admitted that in Texas, "Employment screening for correctional officers is inadequate." TDCJ guards have the nation's highest arrest rate for prison employees, demonstrating that there's indeed no difference between us and them, with quite a few of them even getting caught.

Tough-on-crime and prison-industry-financed politicians howl about the need for more prisons, and to stay the course of mass incarceration. When we hear them, we should remember (as hard as it may be to accept) that what they're really promoting is slavery, genocide, crimes against humanity and a system that only teaches and reinforces criminality, not rehabilitation.

Dare to Struggle Dare to Win!

All Power to the People!

ON REPARATIONS AND EXPROPRIATION

by E Da Ref, Minister of Public Relations, Black Riders Liberation Party (Oakland Chapter)

The Black Riders Liberation Party Black Commune Program Point B: We ride to put an end to the thievery by the capitalists of our Black community. We ride because the racist government has stolen from us. And now we demand the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules that was promised over 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of Black people. We will accept payment in currency, which will be distributed to our communities. The amerikkkan racist has taken part in the slaughter of over 50 million Black people, therefore we ride to make sure we receive complete payment.

Reparation - n. The making of amends for wrong, injustice or injury: Reparation for an injustice or payment in damages. Compensation is usually paid in money, material, resource, land, etc. Payable to another country or community by the country responsible for loss suffered during or as a result of a war.

Expropriate– v. the action of the state (or the people/communities) taking (redistributing) or modifying the property of an individual in an exercise of its sovereignty.

In 1865 after the confederate states of America were defeated in the US civil war, Gen. William T. Sherman issued the Special field order #15: the confiscation of 400,000 acres of land into 40 acre parcels for 18,000 black people to assure harmony of action in the area of operations. (Really just re-colonization in a pacified suppression fashion). However, Pres. Andrew Jackson reversed the order after Lincoln was assassinated.

Reparations are controversial. Mainstream media propaganda and political dialog on this issue are cloaked with white guilt and denial of white supremacy; false hope in a system that still considers Black people 3/5s of a human. It involves the struggle for liberation and justice from racism, capitalism, imperialism and colonialism. It involves demanding that this racist amerikkkan government own up to its responsibility for repairing the damages done by the forced labor, rape, slaughter and genocide of our people.

It's time to stop begging for what they owe us and take it; because history shows us that this Anglo Saxon, white supremacy, colonial, capitalist power structure is not going to live up to its promises. Extreme conditions call for extreme actions in response to the oppression of our people. The Amerikkkan government's fascist police state forces patrol and enslave black communities, while protecting corporate interests and enforcing the systems' agenda. Armed struggle is inevitable! There is no bloodless revolution, rebellion or resistance. So quit playin' and get active! In the words of Elder Black Panther comrade Bobby Seale, "Stick em up m..f..! We come for what's ours!"

There have been many reformist attempts and proposals to receive reparations for slavery and genocide of Black people. On March 8, 2000 Reuters reported that Deandra Farmer Paellmann initiated a campaign for restitution from certain corporations that played a direct role in enslaving Africans. She filed a lawsuit against Aetna Inc. for their practice of writing life insurance policies on the lives of enslaved Africans with slave owners as beneficiaries. Another proposal was delivered by social activist Howshua Ameriel, at a National Reparations Convention in Chicago, requiring that the federal government make payments of reparations to "proven descendants of slaves." If the color of our skin determined whether we were slaves during chattel slavery, shouldn't that be all the proof needed to show we are descendants of slaves? He proposed that Blacks who want to stay in Amerikkka should receive free education, healthcare, and legal aid for 50 years with no taxes levied. (50 years for hundreds of years of slavery and white supremacist genocide?) Black people who want to leave the US should receive a million dollars backed by gold in reparations.

There are some nations who did receive reparations. Under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 Ronald Reagan apologized on behalf of Amerikkka for the Japanese American Internment during World War 2 and provided reparation of $20,000 to each survivor. But we didn't get restitution for the damages done by his Iran-Contra scandal, which put crack and guns in our community and shut down industries that employed us. Even the German government gave reparations to Israel for their "holocaust" of European Jews, where 6 million were killed (Compared to the +50 million who were killed in the "slave trade"). You thought Hitler was a racist but he's a small fry compared to the Amerikkkan imperial regime. They have mastered the art of racism.

You can clearly see the contradictions in the way the Amerikkkan Government has handled the reformist approach. This savage, greedy, system does not understand reason or logic. They benefit too much from our disadvantages and underdevelopment. This white supremacist system doesn't respect the interests of the Black community despite any attempt to conform and work within the judicial, economic, and legal system that they systematically designed to keep you enslaved and in debt in the first place. As our General T.A.C.O (Taking All Capitalists Out) says, "They only understand the knife, they only understand the gun, and we intend on communicating with them clearly!"

It's time to identify who benefited from slavery. Every major corporation that makes up the 1% that controls the majority of wealth in this country was built off slavery and colonial exploitation. I'll give some examples and highlight the companies that admitted to their role in slavery. Some apologized but none have ever paid restitution. In 2005, JP Morgan Chase and Wachovia both apologized for their foundation built on slavery but refused to pay any restitution deeming it "a mistake of the past." The Rockefellers, Merrill Lynch, Fidelity Investment, JG Wentworth, Johnson and Johnson, Union Pacific Railroad… I can go on and on. Name a corporate heavy weight and you can bet they participated in importation and exploitation of enslaved Africans.

Reparations are important in to the harmony of humanity and economic justice. We are at the root of this "economic crises" because the economic structure is built off our labor. And if we don't get free, the whole world will continue to be victim to capitalism. Harpers Magazine created an estimate that the total of reparations due for slavery is over $100 Trillion based on 222,505,049 hours of forced labor from 1619-1865 with a compound interest of 6%.

Understand that the wealth of this country was built on the blood, sweat, and tears of enslaved Africans. The land that this economic superpower is built on is drenched in the blood of the indigenous people it was stolen from. European tyranny and greed sparked the colonial conquest of the "new world." Pre-colonial Africa, America and Asia lived in civilized societies. When the Europeans used up their own resources they came to take somebody else's. The more they took, the more they needed. This pattern of greed can be traced back to the Roman Empire or even back to their "Dark Ages" in the caves of the Caucus Mountains during our African golden ages in Kemet and Nubia, the cradle of civilization. Pre-Colonial Africa & America were rich because the indigenous inhabitants understood the value of balance. There was a deep respect for mother earth and every living thing because we are all spiritually connected. I wouldn't cause harm to you because I am you, and we are all one! The economy was not a system where if I have more currency that puts me in a position of power to

CAPITALIZE off your disadvantages.

The Amerikkkan economy is collapsing like Rome did. Is it over-production and under-consumption or vice versa? The answer is both and beyond. What goes up, must come down. This capitalist economic structure is heading for destruction and it must be destroyed to build a better and balanced structure. We cannot continue to beg this system for something they owe and promised us.

People don't understand what real democracy is. Democracy and capitalism don't mix. It's an oxymoron –two mutually contradictory terms. Big businesses and banks (the 1%) determine who you get to vote for, and they have to meet the needs of the 1% to run in the election. "Democracy is not simply majority rule but effective state power in the hands of the masses" – W.E.B Dubois ("Winds of time" Chicago Defender 9/15/1945). True democracy is supposed to be controlled by the people, for the people, not by and for a certain class of people controlling the masses. My political ideology is Revolutionary African Inter-Communalism which would fall under the category of socialism. It's an advanced term to describe the original form of communal socialism practiced by Africans since the birth of civilization until this very day. It's enhanced and modernized from Huey P. Newton's Inter-communalism upgraded by our General T.A.C.O (Taking All Capitalists Out) as African Intercommunalism with ideals including but not limited to Pan Africanism and Black revolutionary Nationalism plus socialism. "Socialism would mean the expropriation of wealth from the capitalist (Bourgeoisie) class and guaranteed employment, decent housing, education, and healthcare to all citizens." -- Manning Marable (How Capitalism Underdeveloped Black America).

The top elite forces aren't going to give us anything no matter how much they know they owe. They've become accustomed to feasting off your starvation for too long. They're not going to let you take it back without a fight either. The fascist police state will guard corporate interest with their lives. They are preparing concentration camps around the world for you and your children. So what are you gon' do? Everybody wants peace and justice but they scared to go to war for it. In order for society to flow harmoniously the means of production must be put in the hand s of the most oppressed and dispossessed, and the capitalist bourgeoisie class must be suppressed to the point where this caste class system is crushed and eliminated.

If it wasn't for the resources produced by slavery such as cotton, tobacco, rice, sugar, coffee, gold, diamonds, etc.; this country would never have been as prosperous. We built this and we must break it down to build it back up for the betterment of society and the future. This country is still feasting on slave labor in the prison industrial complex. We got nothing to lose and everything to gain. We must take back our resources that were stolen from us. It's time to take power & justice in our own hands!

To make the record clear I'm not trying to promote riot, looting or theft. We must identify the real robbers, thieves and rapists. To strategically organize mass scale expropriation for reparations, there are certain items with symbolic value that must be taken and redistributed throughout the black community. Every bolt of cotton is yours, TAKE IT! Every parcel of sugar, coffee, rice or tobacco is yours, TAKE IT! Electronics that contain the African mineral Coltan (which cell phones and laptops are made of) are yours!

Groups of escaped slaves such as the Maroons, Quilombos, Palenque, and the Garifuna Nation would cleanse the land by burning the rice, cotton, and sugarcane fields on the plantations. They considered these crops foul and impure because they were grown on behalf of injustice by colonial and capitalist greed. Since the land and the people are spiritual in African and indigenous culture, they would redistribute the things they need throughout the communes but the unnecessary overstock was decomposed and recycled back to mother earth as a sacrificial offering. In this capitalist society we produce more than we will ever need. Yet since the intent is to profit off it, if someone who might really need it can't afford it, the item goes to waste. Globalization and industrialization go hand in hand with colonial exploitation and capitalism, and the waste pollutes the air, water and land. The things that we won't need should be cleansed and returned to mother earth. In the spirit of the ancestors. ASHE!

I know some of y'all are thinking, "But Ref, Massah aint gon' like this; he gon' lock you up and throw away the key." Well, we already make up over half the nation's prison population. There are more brothers locked up doing slave labor in these prisons, than there were in chattel slavery during the 1850s. (-- Michele Alexander, The New Jim Crow) You weren't scared to do time for tryin' to feed yo family! "But Ref, they gon' kill you for talkin like that." They killin' us off now. If you got nothing to die for, it ain't worth living for. I've risked my life for less. I wouldn't be a man if I didn't fight for the liberation of my people.

Martial Law and the National Defense Authorization Act are in effect. Time is running out on these reactionary pigs, who are scared because they know it's the end of their world. Quit hesitating and holding the people back from uprising because of fear of repression. Malcolm X says, "The price of freedom is death," so if you fear death, you fear freedom. I love the people too much to let this go on any longer. These reactionary guard dogs will try to silence me. If you're reading this that means they failed. My strap and sword is this pen, slicing through the chains of colonialism with every word I write. Our time is now! We got nothing to lose and everything to gain! The world is ours and we must TAKE IT!

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

Welcome to Our World

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE POLICE MURDER OF KELLY THOMAS AND WHITE SUPREMACY

(c) 2014 by Thandisizwe Chimurenga

Homeless and schizophrenic. Two words that, for me, conjure up one word: vulnerable. The kind of person that, when Jesus says "the least of these," means a person who should be protected. Kelly Thomas, 37 years old, mentally ill and "living" on the streets of Fullerton, CA, was one such person. But Kelly Thomas experienced the exact opposite of protection. Sickeningly and horrifyingly, Kelly Thomas was set upon and beaten to death in July 2011 by men who, in a perfect society, should have been his protectors. Kelly Thomas was murdered by law enforcement and this society's legal system has now set his murderers free. The reason for this is very simple: Kelly Thomas was a castaway. In short, Kelly Thomas was "niggerized."

Welcome to my world.

Cornel West stated more than 10 years ago that people of African descent in this country have long known what it is like to feel "unsafe, unprotected, subject to random violence, and hatred for who they are," and that following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, the U.S. government's relentless erosion of civil liberties in the name of national security led to an "unaccustomed sense of collective intimidation for far too many Americans." Thus, said West, whether or not they were of African descent, all Americans had now been "niggerized" by those attacks.

Kelly Thomas' life was expendable. It no longer held any value to the state. Even the privilege of proximity to law enforcement, which in this society normally would have extended to him via his father, a former Orange County Sheriff's Deputy, did not save him. Witnesses stated that Kelly Thomas cried out for his father 31 times during the 30-minute attack that led to his death: "Dad help me …they're killing me."

Kelly's parents, Ron and Cathy, were understandably shocked and angered by the jury's verdict. No parent should endure what they've had to go through. Only the hardest of hearts can view the picture of Kelly Thomas lying unconscious in a hospital bed and not be taken aback by what Fullerton police did to him. But as a Black woman born and raised in the U.S., to hear Ron Thomas declare that "What this means is that all of us need to be very afraid now … Police officers everywhere can beat us, kill us, do whatever they want because it was proven here today they can get away with it," I automatically want to ask him, where has he been? But I also automatically know the answer to that question: he's been here all along with everybody else whose white skin privilege has shielded them from the terrorism of the police.

When I hear Cathy Thomas exclaim, "They got away with murdering my son," I can only think of how Wanda Johnson said the same thing about her child, Oscar Grant, three and a half years ago.

During the trial of his murderers, the defense argued that Kelly Thomas died not as a result of a brutal assault but due to an enlarged heart from drug abuse, even bringing up Thomas' drug use as a 15-year old to underscore their point. And as a bonus, the defense said that Thomas was violent, once even attacking his own family members. Kelly Thomas was put on trial right alongside of those who murdered him. Black folks know all about that. Just ask the parents of Trayvon Martin.

In a perfect world, the government and those who enforce its laws would have protected Kelly Thomas, made sure he had the basic necessities of life, and that his right to life would have been respected. But Kelly Thomas didn't live in that kind of society. Kelly Thomas lived in a society where value is placed on the whiteness of a person's skin and what they can produce via their labor. In a white supremacist society such as the U.S., Kelly Thomas' white skin privilege had been "sullied" by his social location and his mental illness. It could not save him.

For the most part in the U.S., homelessness does not conjure up images of hard-working people who have sold their labor to another in order to have the basic necessities of life and then, one or two or a series of mis-steps means that they have lost their homes, their security and thus they find themselves living on the street. In this country, homelessness conjures up images of filthy, unkempt, smelly and "dangerous people" who, as a result of their own actions – or in-actions – are pretty much SOOL (shit out of luck).

Schizophrenia, a form of mental illness that affects about 1% of the United States population, is said by the National Institute of Mental Health to be "a chronic, severe, and disabling brain disorder" whereby some persons "… may hear voices other people don't hear. They may believe other people are reading their minds, controlling their thoughts, or plotting to harm them. This can terrify people with the illness and make them withdrawn or extremely agitated."

Persons with such an affliction as schizophrenia will, more than likely, not be able to hold a job or maintain personal relationships for long. Thus, unable to "be productive" (sell their labor) or maintain family ties that can assist with their care and treatment, many schizophrenics find themselves living on the streets in cities across the United States. The existence of a safety net that could care for them or, in the alternative, provide substantive support and relief for their families/loved ones who want to care for them has been greatly weakened.

And now, because of this "sullying," this "niggerization" of their child, the Thomas' now feel the similar pain of far too many Black and Brown parents who have lost their children to police terrorism. They have now entered into our world.

The jettisoning of civil liberties that has occurred since 9/11 alluded to by West, coupled with the continuing attacks on a social safety net that can catch "the least of these," and an increasingly reactionary political agenda administered from the highest levels of government strongly suggest that there will be many more Kelly Thomases. But it doesn't have to be this way.

Police terrorism is a national crisis in the United States. A national movement against the police murder of all people – Black, Brown, Yellow, Red, White, Purple – is desperately needed in this country. Respect for the dignity and human rights of those who walk or drive the streets – or sleep in them – must be made manifest from coast to coast. The lack of accountability and privilege afforded to law enforcement nationwide simply has to come to an end.

A movement such as this must be built. And it can. Among other things, it will need for those who have had the protection of the state extended to them because of white skin privilege to renounce that privilege and see it for what it is: a ruse that continuously turns white folks against their own self-interest.

What a wonderful world this would be.

Thandisizwe Chimurenga is a freelance, grassroots journalist based in Los Angeles. She is a long-time community activist and the author of No Doubt: The Murder(s) of Oscar Grant. She can be reached via her website, www.triplemurder.com.

Kelly Thomas before and after being beaten to death by the Fullerton pigs. A national movement against the police murder of all people – Black, Brown, Yellow, Red, White, Purple – is desperately needed in this country.

TORCH, AN ANTIFASCIST NETWORK

It's with both great excitement and some sadness that we introduce TORCH, an anti-fa network. Out of the old Anti-Racist Action Network rises a new, militant anti-fascist network. This isn't a fracture or schism coming from internal strife but the result of the realization that the blueprint laid out in a time before the Internet no longer serves as a sufficient model for combating fascism. We acknowledge that many of our comrades have lost much, some their lives, under the banner of ARA. Their sacrifices will not be forgotten and their fight is still our fight. Because of changes in the current political climate as well as our own political development, our understanding of what fascism is and how it relates to other political entities such as the working class, capital, and the state has evolved. We wanted to build a new network that fit our needs and politics, one that is more relevant and appealing to a new generation of anti-fascists.

We are still on the prowl. We will still continue to expose, confront, and act. Fascists beware – we are TORCH.

TORCH Points of Unity:

1. We disrupt fascist and far right organizing and activity.
2. We don't rely on the cops or courts to do our work for us. This doesn't mean we never go to court, but the cops uphold white supremacy and the status quo. They attack us and everyone who resists oppression. We must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and stop the fascists.
3. We oppose all forms of oppression and exploitation. We intend to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement of oppressed people centered on the working class against racism, sexism, "nativism," anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, the youngest, and the most oppressed people. We support abortion rights and reproductive freedom. We want a classless, free society. We intend to win!
4. We hold ourselves accountable personally and collectively to live up to our ideals and values.
5. We not only support each other within the network, but we also support people outside the network who we believe have similar aims or principles. An attack against one is an attack against all.

The founding chapters include Southside Chicago ARA, CenTex ARA, ARA-LA/People Against Racist Terror (PART), and the Hoosier Anti-Racist Movement (HARM) in Bloomington and Lafayette IN. Central Florida Antifa and then Philly Antifa joined shortly thereafter. Other chapters and individuals previously associated with the Anti-Racist Action network are discussing their relationship with the new network. Check us out at http://torchantifa.org

First Annual TORCH Antifa Network Conference To Be Held In Chicago

On September 12th, 13th, and 14th of 2014, South Side Chicago ARA will be hosting the 1st Annual TORCH Antifa Network Conference. This conference has 2 parts: a private portion reserved for vouched antifascist chapters within the network (get vouched in now!) and a public portion for any and all antifascists interested in either the network or simply meeting other antifascists and having a good time. There will be workshops, tables, and more. We will post a detailed schedule in the coming months! If you have any questions or want to become a vouched chapter before the conference, email us at southsidechicagoara@hushmail.com

Donate To Prison Release Funds For Anti-Racist Political Prisoners CeCe McDonald and John Tucker

We'd like to encourage you to donate to one or both of these brave individuals who were imprisoned for taking a stand against racism and fascism.

Cece McDonald is a trans Black woman who was attacked in 2011 by a group of trans-phobic racists, along with several friends. Cece was slashed in the face with a broken bottle, and her group defended themselves. In the ensuing melee, one of the attackers was stabbed and killed, and Cece was unjustly tried and convicted. None of the racists were charged. Cece was released on January 13 and her supporters are fundraising to give her some help. You can donate to Cece McDonald: www.supportcece.wordpress.com/get-involved/donate/ or email mpls4cece@gmail.com, or call 612.208.9762

John Tucker is one of the Tinley Park 5, 5 Antifascists imprisoned on trumped-up charges stemming from a disruption of a meeting of representatives of several Neo-Nazi/White Power groups. John is also slated for release this month. His supporters have also started a prison release fund. The Tinley Park 5 are 5 men from Indiana charged with multiple felonies for an altercation with active white supremecists at a restaurant in Tinley Park, IL. (more info here: www.phillyantifa.wordpress.com/2012/06/19/anarchist-reflections-on-the-tinley-park-incident-by-some-anarchist-antifascists)

John's health has been neglected while incarcerated, so he is facing some medical expenses, including dentistry and dermatology, when he gets out, as well as court costs and the cost of court-mandated "anger management" classes." You can donate here: www.wepay.com/donations/john-tucker-prison-release-fund or by contacting your local antifa.

Menard Hunger Strikers: We Need Support, Forced Feeding Threatened

The following information is drawn from letters received from prisoners in Administrative Detention at Menard Correctional Center in Menard, Illinois, and compiled by attorney Alice Lynd.

On Jan. 15, 2014, approximately 25 prisoners in Administrative Detention at Menard Correctional Center went on hunger strike. Officers shook down their cells and took any food they found. The hunger strikers were sent to medical staff and charged $5 for medical treatment. On the way back from seeing medical staff, one prisoner (said to be Armando Velazquez) was pushed onto the stairs while in handcuffs by two officers. Those officers then kicked and stomped on his back, picked him up and then slammed his face into the plexiglass window on a door. One officer was sent home early that day. Prisoner Velazquez was moved to the Health Care Unit and the prisoners have not seen him since.

The hunger strikers have been told the prison administration is working on obtaining a preliminary injunction to force feed them. They expect to continue the hunger strike even if they are force-fed. "We need as much outside support as possible," the prisoners say.

Please call or email:
Gov. Pat Quinn, (217) 782-0244,
www2.illinois.gov/gov/Pages/ContacttheGovernor.aspx
Warden Rick Harrington, (618) 826-5071
IL Department of Corrections Director Salvador Godinez, (217) 558-2200, ext. 2008

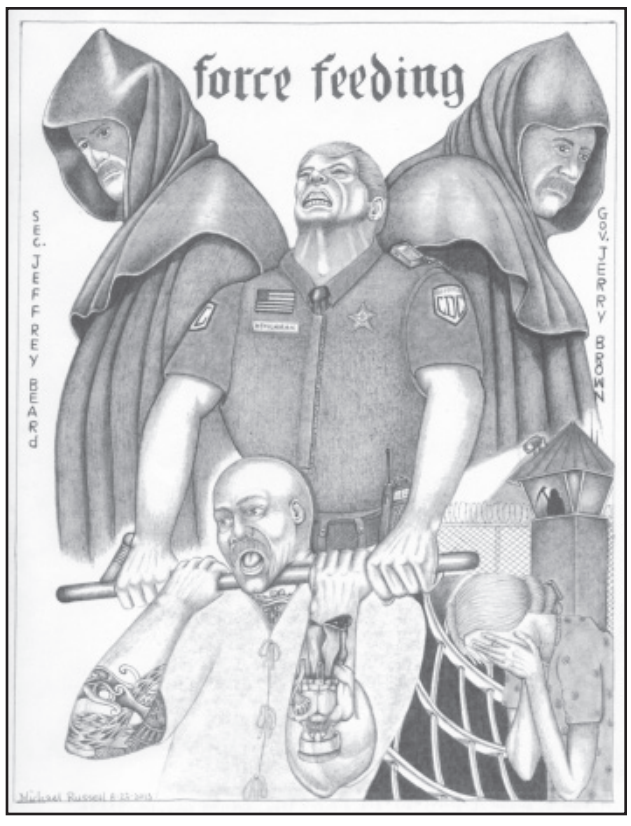
Attorney Alice Lynd can be reached at salynd@aol.com.

Menard prisoners' demands

In a letter to IL DOC Director Godinez, Alan Mills of Uptown People's Law Center in Chicago writes that prisoners formerly housed at Tamms and now in Administrative Detention at Menard in the High Security Unit, or HSU, "have contacted our office regarding both the process by which they were placed in this unit and the conditions of their confinement in the unit. They have advised us that due to the lack of response from anyone within the Department regarding their informal complaints and formal grievances they will begin an indefinite hunger strike today, Jan. 15. The men have forwarded the following demands to us in the hopes that we can facilitate resolution of the issues:

A hearing upon arrival and rationale for placement, as well as the written rules and regulations regarding their classification;

– Quarterly meaningful reviews of continued placement;
– Timely written responses to grievances in compliance with the departmental directives;
– The ability to have reasonable access to cleaning supplies for their personal cells;
– The common areas to be cleaned and sanitized (i.e., showers) and the vermin and rodent infestation eliminated;
– Adequate heat and hot water in cells and common areas;
– The ability to purchase basic commissary items (i.e., thermal clothing, shoes etc.), pursuant to departmental regulations;
– Access to individual razors and nail clippers held by departmental staff;



"Force Feeding" by Michael David Russell, C-90473, PBSP SHU D7-217, P.O. Box 7500, Crescent City CA 95532

– Timely addressed medical treatment (i.e., physical, mental and dental ailments); and
– Adequate access to legal property boxes and the law library."

Alan Mills, Uptown People's Law Center
4415 N. Sheridan, Chicago IL 60640
(775) 769-1411, www.uplcchicago.org

75 African Groups Demand Obama Stop Pushing Dirty Energy through *Power Africa*

Coinciding with the UN climate conference in Warsaw, 75 African groups from 18 countries sent a letter to President Obama concerning his Power Africa initiative. The letter was released as the world commemorated the anniversary of the murder of Nigerian playwright and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, who was sentenced to death on November 10, 1995 by the ruling military junta for speaking out against Shell's devastating dirty energy exploits in Nigeria's Niger Delta.

Dear President Obama,

We are African organizations working for the realization of a healthy and just environment for the people of our countries. We believe that every person has the right to a dignified life of quality on a livable planet. The climate crisis -- brought on by developed countries -- poses a monumental threat to this basic human right.

With this in mind we write to you concerning the Power Africa initiative, as well as congressional legislation meant to operationalize your initiative, including the Electrify Africa Act of 2013. Like you, we feel a great sense of urgency to address the pervasive energy poverty found in most African countries. It is shameful that in 2013, more than 2/3 of sub-Saharan Africa's population lacks electricity, with that number growing to more than 85% in rural areas.

We are therefore working hard to bring decentralized, clean, community-controlled renewable energy to all of our people. We do not need to poison communities in Africa in order to develop sustainably. Consequently, we reject any further extraction and exploitation of fossil fuels, including natural gas, oil, coal, and unconventional fossil fuels. These dirty fuel projects cause devastating impacts on local health, communities, and the environment. We similarly reject large hydropower projects, and other 'false solutions' such as carbon trading and offsetting. Smaller scale solar, wind, and geothermal, and mini-hydro, can provide us with sustainable lives and livelihoods without sinking our health along with that of the continent and the planet.

When we read statements from the White House about "new discoveries of vast reserves of oil and gas," or that "The recent discoveries of oil and gas in sub-Saharan Africa will play a critical role in defining the region's prospects for economic growth and stability, as well as contributing to broader near-term global energy security"[- our response is to say:
"Leave the oil in the soil; leave the coal in the hole."

It's impossible to continue to exploit fossil fuels if we want to avoid climate catastrophe. Climate change is already having a heightened impact in Africa, with increasing temperatures, more floods and droughts, and failing agriculture, which is increasing conflict and threatening the lives and livelihoods of many millions.

Furthermore, we know from decades of direct experience that the World Bank-driven development model pushing large-scale infrastructure and power projects rarely, if ever, alleviates poverty. Instead, such projects exacerbate inequality and conflict, devastate the environment, and frequently involve human rights violations (i.e. the well-documented "resource curse"). These projects do not help us at home but rather are for export and to line the pockets of multinational corporations and local elites.

But even more troubling is how African poverty has been used to line the pockets of U.S. corporations and "experts." Much of the money given as "aid" to African countries actually returns right back to the "experts" and consultants of donor countries. It thus troubles us tremendously that Power Africa has been advertised to U.S. audiences as an initiative to benefit U.S. corporations. For example, upon Power Africa's launch, *Forbes* wrote that it "greases billions in deals for General Electric," saying the firm is "perhaps the biggest beneficiary" of the initiative, noting the US Export-Import Bank's central role in financing its ambitions in the region. Indeed, the chair of the Export-Import Bank was quite frank about this over Twitter, referring to Power Africa as a "$7B plan to power up @General Electric", and he posted a picture of [your] speech on the initiative in Tanzania with a GE logo more than twice the size of the presidential seal.

We therefore urge you to re-think any support for large scale power and infrastructure projects in the name of increasing energy access for Africa. We know that this hasn't worked in the past, and it won't work now. What will work are small-scale, decentralized, community-owned renewable energy initiatives throughout the African countryside and cities. The International Energy Agency has said as much. Its *2010 World Energy Outlook* found that for universal energy access to occur by 2030, 70% of rural populations will need to be served by decentralized renewable energy. Electrification should focus heavily on decentralized renewable energy systems, such as small-scale, democratically controlled wind, solar and micro-hydro co-ops which meet local needs and end peoples' reliance on the corporate-controlled energy system. Advances in distributed renewable energy in recent years have made this technology more cost effective than outmoded grid extension from centralized fossil fuel projects; much like cheaper mobile phone technology has made extension of phone lines obsolete. When the externalized cost of fossil fuel projects is factored in -- including the cost of harmful health impacts, loss of land, environmental and agricultural damage, and conflicts -- distributed renewable energy solutions become even more cost effective than fossil fuel projects.

Unfortunately, to our dismay, we have learned that fossil fuel companies, the ONE Campaign, and even some in the Obama administration are using Power Africa and the Electrify Africa Act to try to weaken crucial gains in U.S. development financing at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). OPIC's landmark climate and development policy, which is already having a positive effect in directing the agency's portfolio toward renewable energy, requires the agency to reduce its fossil fuel financing and increase its renewable energy financing, bringing cleaner energy access to the poor. OPIC's cap on greenhouse gas emissions must not be tampered with, most certainly not in the false name of supplying power to Africa's poor. Weakening this policy will mean more polluting energy for Africa. What's more, it may result in increased numbers of large centralized fossil fuel power projects that serve industrial customers but do not increase energy access for the poor, particularly in rural areas.

We thank you for your attention to these most important matters as we all move boldly toward sustainable livelihoods in the face of the climate crisis.

Sincerely, [signed by 75 organizations across Africa]

Inter-Communal Solidarity Committee
PO Box 1055
Culver City, CA 90232-1055

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ★ Feb. 8, 5:00 PM Film: "The Black & the Green": African-American leaders in Ireland 1226 N. Alvarado, L.A. Info on Occupied North of Ireland: cirw32@yahoo.com
- ★ Mar. 1, 6:00 PM, Michael Parenti on "Capitalism: Lost Prosperity, False Democracy" 1226 N. Alvarado, L.A. 90026. Union of Progressive Iranians, 323-679-5023
- ★ March 15: International Day of Action Against Police Brutality
- ★ March 22: ISC members lead workshop on radical sex work politics at Bay Area Anarchist Bookfair
- ★ Check us out via http://tideturning.org or facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity

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TTT is a small project with few resources: **we can't provide books or legal aid, or investigate individuals' innocence.**

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TURNING THE TIDE

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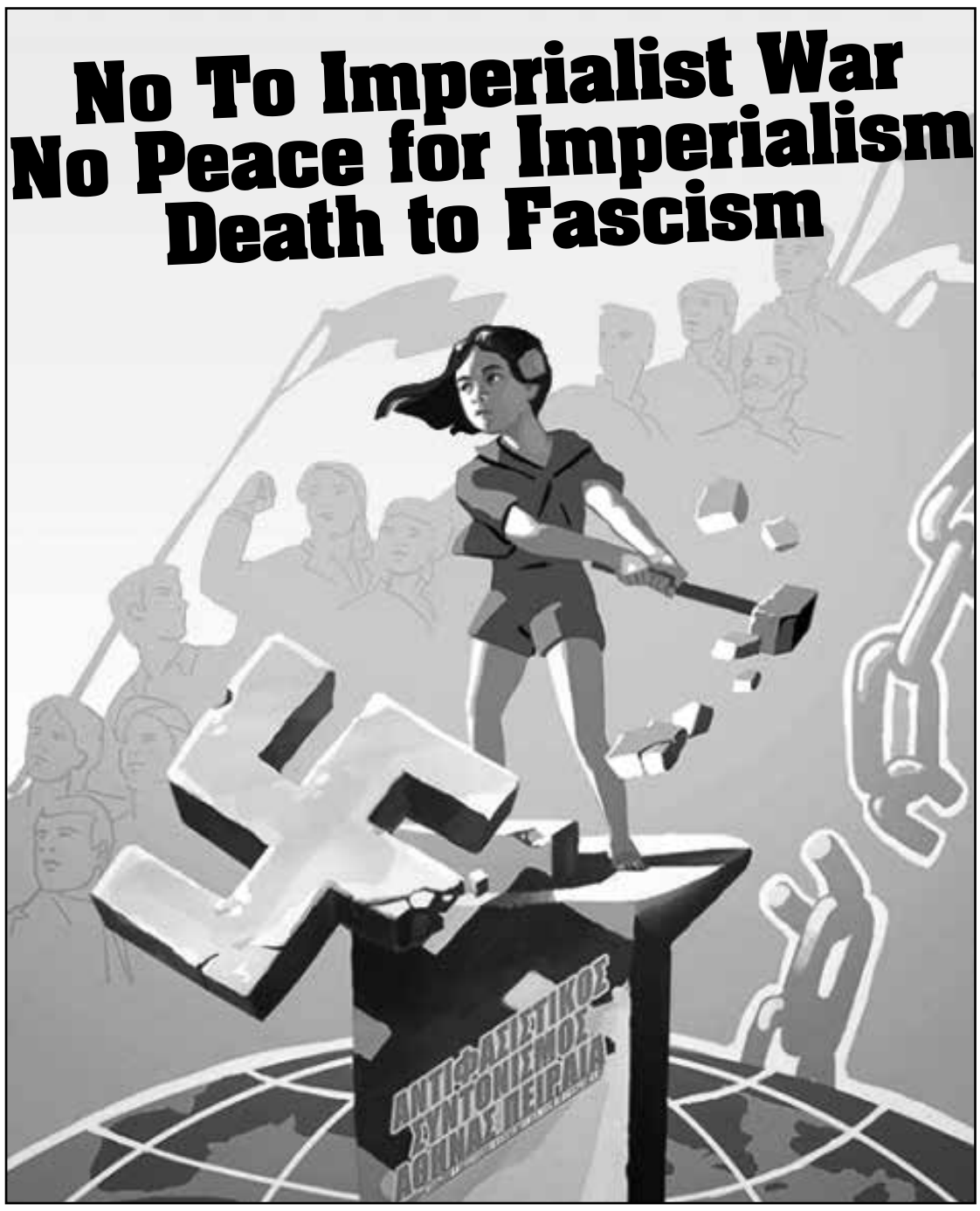

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DIVIDED WORLD DIVIDED CLASS

Global Political Economy and the Stratification of Labour Under Capitalism

Reviewed by Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action L.A./ People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)

Divided World, Divided Class: Global Political Economy and the Stratification of Labour Under Capitalism, written by Zak Cope. ISBN 978-1-894946-41-4. Published by Kersplebedeb, CP 63560, CCCP Van Horne, Montreal Quebec H3W 3H8 Canada leftwingbooks.net. Also available from AK Press akpress.org.

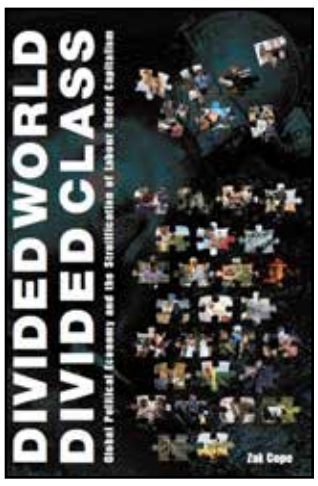
"Divided World Divided Class," as its subtitle implies, is an effort to understand capitalism in its totality as a global system and the class structure that results. It focuses primarily on a class analysis of what it terms the "core capitalist countries" (the U.S., western Europe, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand). It puts forward the view that broadly speaking, workers and employees in those countries form a global "labor aristocracy," a petty bourgeois middle class between the 'haute' bourgeoisie and the global proletariat located in the 'periphery' (colonized and neo-colonial countries in Africa, Asia/Oceania and Latin America).

The author draws his conclusion from a mathematical analysis of the super-exploitation of the labor force of those Third World countries. He also quantifies the exploitation of their natural resources, primarily through "unequal exchange" (purchase of commodities from them for less than their true cost, and sale of commodities to them for more than their true value). Cope bases this math on the underlying Marxist assumptions of the labor theory of value. He says the only workers who are "exploited" are those who directly produce 'surplus value' in agricultural and industrial production of commodities. Through sometimes hypothetical formulations of what the value and price of that labor 'should' be, Cope concludes that **all** imperialist profits are derived **exclusively** from the super-exploitation of Third World labor in the periphery.

He judges that workers and employees in the imperialist core countries actually receive pay in **excess** of the value they produce, even where they are engaged in commodity production. Thus, he finds that the pervasive racial, cultural and national chauvinism of these workers is rooted not in false consciousness, ignorance, or misleadership, but in their material economic interest in the exploitation and repression of the periphery and the proletarians there, which they share with 'their' bourgeoisie. Cope's book is a very difficult "read" because of the long sections of abstract mathematical calculations. I believe he overstates his case to the detriment of a true understanding of class structure and revolutionary potential in both the core and the periphery. Nevertheless, I think the book is required reading for would-be revolutionaries.

Anyone interested in ending capitalism, imperialism, racism, exploitation and oppression must grapple with the analysis Cope presents. First of all, Cope provides insights into the nature and functioning of capitalism/ imperialism as a global system that are vital to understand and incorporate. These are an important corrective to narrow social-chauvinist views that use the nation-state as their frame of reference for class analysis or strategic formulations for class struggle. Additionally, Cope recuperates essential elements of Marx's own analysis of the functioning of capitalism, and of class society generally. He tries to incorporate Lenin's understanding of imperialism and the contradiction between oppressor and oppressed nations. He reminds us of the contributions of revolutionaries throughout the colonized and semi-colonized "periphery," such as Kwame Nkrumah's trenchant explication of neo-colonialism and the welfare state.

However, by overstating his case, Cope essentially liquidates or obliterates class contradictions within both core and peripheral states. Also, because his orientation and experience is primarily European, his understanding of settler colonialism and the existence of oppressed and colonized peoples within such so-called "core" countries as the US, Canada, etc. is limited. All this serves to overestimate the strength of capitalism/ imperialism within the "core," to underestimate the obstacles to revolution in the "periphery," and to misapprehend the full dialectical relationship between the two. Like other European Marxists, Cope's analysis tends to abstract from the issue of privatization of land and exploitation of 'nature' in the development of capital and capitalism.



What is the purpose of a revolutionary class analysis? First of all, it should enable us to correctly identify friends and enemies. Second, it can identify our own strengths and weaknesses as well as those of our enemy. Finally it should help us to ascertain how we can use our strengths to overcome our weaknesses, and how we can best take advantage of our enemy's weaknesses to undermine their strengths. Classes and class relationships are based on material realities but they are social phenomena based on the element of consciousness and practice as well.

A sounder analysis is required to illuminate the weaknesses of the bourgeoisie that we can intensify and use to overcome and overthrow them. It will also enable us to define a sound basis for overcoming class collaboration and identification with the oppressor, which have hamstrung revolutionary developments in the periphery as well as in the core. It will enable us to wage the fight necessary for human and planetary survival in the growing ecological crisis of global warming.

In that light, we have to ask ourselves: Are there really no revolutionary, irreconcilable class contradictions inside so-called "core" or oppressor nations, such as the US, Canada, western Europe and Japan? If so, how is it that the US must incarcerate over 2.3 million people, and hold more than three times as many more in some form of custody like parole and probation? Why does imperial rule inside the metropole still require millions of troops, law enforcement and prison guards, and private security forces? Why do the US, western Europe and other advanced industrialized nations continue to import, legally and illegally, millions of workers from the "periphery" into their borders? More importantly, why do the NSA and its parallel agencies across Europe hack and spy on all telephonic and electronic communications? Why have the rulers created a vast non-profit industrial complex to channel and contain dissent and community organizing? Why did the US carry out the COINTELPRO domestic war strategy against the Black Panther Party and other Black liberation and communist organizations and against the American Indian Movement?

When COINTELPRO was exposed, why did they continue domestic war and counter-insurgency through genocidal chemical and biological warfare, such as the CIA crack cocaine epidemic, and why are they continuing such domestic psy-ops and repressive strategies to this day against insurgent elements such as the Black Riders Liberation Party? We must recognize, as the imperialists clearly do, that because of the existence of oppressed and colonized people inside the militarily imposed borders of the US, and because of the continuing existence of exploitative social relations and class contradictions inside the metropole, that the Empire does not have a reliable rear area in the US itself. Maintenance of the US as an empire state requires a constant state of war by various means against oppressed and exploited people "within the belly of the beast."

Conversely, how is it that in "Latin" America (for example Venezuela or El Salvador) and Africa or Asia (for example, Libya or Indonesia) there have been large-scale reactionary or fascist formations pushing counter-revolution in the interests of imperialism? Seeing whole nations in the "Third World" as oppressed and exploited ignores the growth of private and state capital within China, Russia, India, Brazil, South Africa, South Korea, and other societies. The US and EU continue their hostility to Russia, despite the liquidation of the Soviet system. The US is preparing for war with China, despite the triumph of capitalist economic relations there. These developments attest to the fact that inter-imperial rivalries between states in the so-called core and periphery continue to exist.

Furthermore, a thorough class analysis of the periphery also must be global. We must recognize the important role in maintaining colonialism and domination played by the export of labor, especially women in the current period, to both the core and to certain subaltern exploiters within the so-called periphery, such as Saudi Arabia and the Emirates. Also, remittances – money sent by such 'exported' workers back to their home countries – now exceeds all governmental aid and private capital investment from the "North" to the "South."

Welfare state programs have also been used in the periphery, as in the core countries, as part of a carrot and stick strategy to maintain imperial domination. For example, British-style labor parties ruled most of the English-speaking Caribbean, and food stamps and other transfer payments from the US government are used to control the population in its classic colony of Puerto Rico. Their existence in either the periphery or the core does not mean that class contradictions have been eliminated. The "welfare state" needs to be understood as the 'velvet glove' draped around the 'iron fist' of the "warfare state." Each requires the other to function and both are based on maintaining exploitative class relations in both the core and the periphery.

The arrival of capitalism didn't eradicate pre-existing forms of oppression and exploitation such as patriarchy or slavery. Similarly, its transformation into necrotic monopoly capitalism, imperialism, doesn't eradicate the pre-existing class contradictions of earlier stages of capitalism. We can't ignore the continuing exploitation of labor and nature that goes on inside the so-called "core" capitalist countries, and the irreconcilable contradictions that continue to exist behind the façade of 'democracy' and 'development' where we live.

If we do so, we will be attempting to wage the class war necessary to overturn capitalism and imperialism with one arm tied behind our backs. We can ill afford to do so when continued imperial rule means condemning future generations and the planetary eco-system to genocidal climate change, water wars and food shortages. We must unite all who can be united as a great clenched fist against the common enemy of humanity and "Mother Earth" itself – imperialism!

Venezuela: coup part two

[column written 3/21/14] © 2014 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

The United States has tried, several times, to stage a coup against Venezuela, especially during the outsized life of the late Presidente, Hugo Chavez. It was April of 2002, when U.S. backed corporate and military forces ousted Chavez, and tried to install a puppet regime.

Within days, the streets of Caracas came alive to bring back Chavez, and restore him to the presidency.

Here we go again.

Right wing and corporate backed forces are now trying to spark popular revolts against the Bolivarian successor to Chavez: Nicolas Maduro. And guess who's backing them?

Members of America's millionaire -Congress. Using right wing claims of government attacks on peaceful protests, and on a free press, members of the U.S. corporate Congress are trying to scare up sanctions against the socialist government of Venezuela.

We saw no congressional action when peaceful protests were waged in cities across America. The Occupy Movement, peacefully protesting corporate greed and the brutal tyranny of the 1%, got, first, slimed in the corporate press, and when the media turned out the lights, they got beaten by police, their tents and property seized and destroyed.

Mayors across America conspired with Homeland Security to run their encampments off the streets. Some protestors were shot by cops, and injured badly.

From Congress came nothing – but silence.

Now, the 10% Congress, at the behest of several anti-Castro Cubans, are attacking Venezuela's democracy –again, on behalf of the 1%.

This is nothing but another attempted coup, with American money and backing.

Their noses are so busy poking into other's business, that it ignores the cancer at home, which may explain its now epic low levels of support – 10%.

Defeating Fascism Before It's Too

by James Petras
http://venezuelanalysis.com/analysis/10529 (excerpts)

Capt. Jose Guillen Araque of the Venezuelan National Guard recently gave Pres. Maduro a book on the rise of Nazism, warning that "fascism has to be defeated before it's too late!" In retaliation, the captain was shot by a US-backed assassin on the streets of Marcay on March 16. The killing of a prominent, patriotic officer in a provincial capital is one more indication that the Venezuelan fascists are on the move, confident of support from Washington and from a broad swath of the Venezuelan upper and middle class. They constitute a minority of the electorate and have no illusions about taking power via constitutional democratic means. Guillen Araque had stepped forward to remind Pres. Maduro that the road to power for Nazi and fascist totalitarian groups has been littered with the corpses of well-meaning democrats throughout contemporary history because of their failure to use their constitutional powers to crush the enemies of democracy.

The term "fascist" in Venezuela is appropriately applied to organized violent political groups engaged in mass terror in a campaign to destabilize and overthrow the democratically-elected Bolivarian government. The Venezuelan brand of fascism is dependent on, and acts as a proxy for, US imperialism and their Colombian warlord allies. Venezuelan fascism's racism is directed against its multiracial African-Amerindian Venezuelan working and peasant classes. The essential connection with earlier fascist movements is found in **1)** profound class hostility to the popular majority; **2)** visceral hatred of the Chavista Socialist Party, winner of 18 of the last 19 elections; **3)** resort to the armed seizure of power by a minority; **4)** its intention to destroy the democratic institutions it exploits to gain political space; **5)** targeting working class institutions – communal councils, neighborhood associations, clinics, trade unions and peasant co-operatives; and **6)** support of banks, commercial landed estates and manufacturing firms.

In Germany, Italy, Spain, and Chile, fascist movements began as small terrorist groups. They gained the backing of the capitalist elite because of their violence against working class organizations and democratic institutions. Tragically, democratic leaders tended to regard fascists as "just another party," refusing to crush the armed thugs, who combined terror in the streets with elections to gain state power. The democrats refused to send out their multi-million mass supporters to face the fascist hordes. Thus the fascists easily moved from the streets to state power. The people's right to armed defense of their democracy had been subordinated to upholding 'democratic norms.' Constitutional democrats failed to recognize how drastically politics had changed. They were not dealing with a parliamentary opposition; they were confronted with armed terrorists and saboteurs committed to the seizure of power by any means. To fascism, democratic conciliation is a weakness and an invitation to escalate violence. This is how they came to power in Germany, Italy and Chile, while the constitutional democrats refused to arm the millions of organized workers who could have throttled the fascists, saved democracy and preserved their own lives.

Fascism in Venezuela: A Mortal Threat Today

Capt. Guillen Araque's warning of an imminent fascist danger in Venezuela has a substantive basis. The subterranean organizations financ[e] the flow of arms to fascists-in-waiting. Political opposition leaders are duplicitous, moving from legal forms of protest to sub-rosa complicity with armed terrorists. In a fascist putsch, the oligarchs will emerge as the rulers – and will share power with leaders of the fascist organizations. Their 'respectability' provides political cover; their campaigns to free thugs and arsonists earn international support while they serve as intermediaries between US funding agencies and the terrorist underground. To 'defeat fascism before it is too late', the government must assess the resources [and] organization of the fascist command and reject overly 'upbeat' pronouncements from some ministers and legislators.

Fascists are not simply a small band pounding on pots and attacking municipal workers in upper-middle class neighborhoods of Caracas. The fascists are organized on a national basis. They target vital institutions in strategic locations. Their financing, arming and actions are planned. Their demonstrations are not spontaneous, responding to government 'repression' as depicted in the bourgeois media. The fascists bring together different violent groups, combining right-wing professionals, gangs and drug traffickers, paramilitary groups, mercenaries and felons. These are financed by currency speculators, protected by local officials, and offered sanctuary by real estate investors and university bureaucrats. They include thugs and students from upper-middle-class families, para-military Colombians, mercenaries, 'contract killers' from US security outfits, and fascist 'internationalists' recruited from Miami, Central & Latin America and Europe. The terrorists have two sanctuaries, Bogota and Miami, where prominent political leaders provide political support. The convergence of criminal economic activity and political terrorism presents a double threat to the Venezuelan economy and state. Criminals and terrorists find a common home under the US political tent, designed to overthrow Venezuela's democratic government and crush the Bolivarian revolution.

The targets of terrorism are the strategic programs that sustain democratic administration; mass social institutions forming the base of the government. This [is] why terrorists bomb clinics, public schools and centers for adult education, state subsidized food stores and the public transport system. Terrorists target the police, National Guard, judges, prosecutors and other authorities in charge of safeguarding citizens to create a climate of fear and demonstrate that the state is incapable of protecting the life of its citizens. The terrorists want to project an image of 'dual power' by seizing public spaces, blocking normal commerce and 'governing the streets through the gun.' The terrorists want to curtail popular counter-demonstrations by blocking streets and sniping at activists. They count on their 'legal' opposition allies to provide them with a mass base via public demonstrations, which can serve as a shield for violent assaults and a pretext for sabotage.

The challenge is to cut-off the economic and political basis of fascism. Until recently the government has been over sensitive to criticism from overseas and domestic elites who defend fascists in the name of "democratic freedom." Venezuela has resources at its disposal to root out the fascist threat. Even if action causes an outcry from overseas, it's incumbent on the government to act against opposition officials who incite armed rebellion.

The National Assembly has voted to strip Congresswoman Corina Machado of her immunity so she can be prosecuted for inciting violence. President of the National Assembly Cabello has presented detailed evidence of her role in organizing and promoting armed rebellion. Several opposition mayors, actively involved in protecting snipers, thugs and arsonists, have been charged and arrested. The majority of Venezuelans confronted by fascist violence support the punishment of officials engaged in or supporting sabotage. The most significant advance toward stopping the fascist threat lies in the government's recognition of the links between the parliamentary and business elite and the fascist terrorists. Financial speculators, smugglers and big-time hoarders of food and other essential commodities are part of the fascist drive for power with the terrorists who bomb food markets and attack trucks transporting food to poor neighborhoods. One revolutionary worker said to me after a street skirmish: *"Por la razon y la fuerza no pasaran!"* (Through reason and force they will be defeated)…

Racismo Sin Vergüenza de los Contras Venezolanos

by Arlene Eisen
http://venezuelanalysis.com/analysis/10547 (excerpts)

It's late morning in Caracas, Feb. 12. From the restaurant in the hotel around the corner from Plaza Venezuela we can hear chanting. Are they yelling "Maduro/burro Salida"? We see smiling white people, streaming down the street in the first huge anti-government demonstration that signaled the onset of the current outrages in Venezuela.

Olga, the restaurant manager, has tan skin, died blond hair and brown eyes. She's one of the 42% of Venezuelans who self-identified as white in the Census. She barks orders to the Indigenous woman in the kitchen. She's laughing as she glances at a cartoon in an anti-government Caracas newspaper. I ask if there are interesting stories. She unleashes a tirade about how she hates Chavismo. She says it brought "riff-raff, brutes, thugs and criminals into the city." She's emphatic. "Caracas is flooded with uncultured animals who make life miserable for civilized people." She concludes, "Look at the crime, insecurity, murders!" It's likely Olga is influenced by cartoons by Kiko Rodriguez. One of his more repulsive depictions of Chavez expresses time-worn racist contempt for people of African descent, but also foments fear and hatred. The title is "Miko Mandante", meaning "Ape Commander," to mock the affectionate title "Mi Comandante" used by masses of Venezuelan people.

Olga never mentioned the race of Venezuela's poor. The extreme poor in 2003 were 30% of the population and by 2011 only 6.8%. Chavismo's accomplishments in reducing poverty are significant because of the near total correlation between class and race in Venezuela. Nearly all the wealthy people are phenotypically European, while nearly all those in poverty are Black and Brown. Treating people of African and Indigenous descent are animals or criminals is flagrantly visible in Venezuelan institutions. White supremacy in Venezuela resembles the US and other settler colonial countries.

The roots of white supremacy run deep, yet the Bolivarian Revolution has improved the lives of Venezuela's majority—who are people of color, unlike during the old dictatorships who served Standard Oil and the US State Department. Legal tools—including Land Reform, a new Constitution written by a Constituent Assembly, the Organic Law Against Racial Discrimination—chip away at discrimination and promote mass participation in government, and in communes, councils, collectives and cooperatives. These are the structures of peoples' power—including 30,000 communal councils designed to ensure that once-marginalized people become protagonists of their futures and nurture their dignity. Between 1997-2011 the portion of Venezuela's wealth going to the richest 20% decreased from 53-44%. At the end of 2013, the poverty rate had dropped by 20%, the largest decline in the Americas, and one of the largest in the world. Oil revenue pays for homes for the poor, schools where every primary student gets a free laptop, universities with open admission, health clinics, and jobs. It also funds programs against domestic violence, transgenic seeds and other campaigns.

Racist political cartoon representing Hugo Chavez as a murderous ape.

Hugo Chavez, Venezuela's first President with African and Indigenous ancestors, spoke proudly about his thick lips and kinky hair. Chavez practiced solidarity with Black and Brown people on a world scale. He provided aid with no strings attached to Black and Indigenous people in the US, Haiti, Colombia and elsewhere. In 2011, a joint Cuban-Venezuelan project opened the first high school in Western Sahara refugee camps. A project in Palestine provides free eye surgery.

The counter-revolutionary movement in the streets has become the darling of the corporate press, who never mention that the racism pervading this movement could rival that in the KKK. Racism is one of the main engines of the counter-revolution.

1. Destroying progress by African Descendants and Indigenous People

The counter-revolutionary movement in the streets has as one of its main objectives restoring white privilege. Cartoons, editorials, posters, graffiti blame Venezuela's economic problems on "squandering" the nation's oil resources on the "rabble." Racist cartoonist Weil is one of Venezuela's most widely reproduced. He has 155,000 Twitter followers to whom he tweets militant support for Maria Corina Machado (a right-wing extremist leader reminiscent of Sarah Palin) and other extremists promoting anti-government lies, racism and violence.

2. Anti-communism, Xenophobia and Racism in an anti-Cuban Stew

Graffiti, twitter, TV and print media perpetuate racist, anti-communist, xenophobic lies that Black Cubans have invaded Venezuela. Photos of Black people in military

First Person Personal: Encountering Racism on the Road

by Max Hodes

I woke up in Virginia. I was on tour in a six-piece band with which I'd been working as a producer, audio engineer, singer and/or tenor-guitarist. We each came from different classes and countries. Most of us had joined the band recently, but had toured the country twice together. I was in the band for three years, and didn't know then that I would be quitting in three days.

We were heading to Durham to play the Pinhook. We stopped an hour out of town to visit and pick up the drummer's sister. She lived in a vinyl-sided two-story on a cul-de-sac. Big front yard and sparse woods behind the house. Dog. Cookies in the kitchen she was saving for somebody. She called her neighbor's kids "niglets."

She had been talking with four of us for an hour. The drummer was showering and she teased him in his temporary absence. She talked about her kids, their video games, her husband's job. It was a recognizable, and seemingly predictable, kind of boring. I tuned in and out, absorbing enough conversation to speak up in context and then watching the details of her kitchen go by until I thought more silence would be rude.

She said "niglets" like we all agreed with her; like everyone is racist about the neighbors. I reacted with an instant of stupefied denial preceding understanding and total disgust. I felt a multitude of connections made to people and places I knew: fascist pigs in suits and ties and the comrades they sought to capture and kill; black and white faces, enemies and allies, strangers, family; history I'd read. A sudden urgency and a kind of blindness. I feared and thus felt a total lack of allies. In my self-protection I barely registered anyone else's discomfort or protest. Someone said "That's racist." I stood there in silent, open-mouthed rage. "If you lived here, you'd say the same thing," she said, forced a laugh and was met with silence. The drummer said "look at Max. He's fucking speechless!" I grabbed my jacket with "All Power To The People" written on the back and walked out.

I was as much dumbfounded as angry, slowly realizing the opportunity to voluntarily and easily remove my body from a situation I found disagreeable was a privilege I had not turned to revolutionary action. But in so doing I met no resistance from my bandmates. They were fine with silent exit as protest. I was standing in her driveway next to the tour van when she came out of the house for a minute and called down. "Are you in shock?" "I don't want to talk to you about anything at all," I responded. I got the feeling that her sense of entitlement to feelings of dominance and hatred was still in place.

Our keyboardist, who was dating the drummer, volunteered to ride to the show with the racist woman, and talk along the way about why "niglet" is a bad thing to say. The rest of us rode in the bus where the drummer explained that his sister was so intractable that fighting her would be useless. She wouldn't give details about their conversation, but the keyboardist said it was generally about how words can have an impact on people, and implied that the drummer's sister simply didn't understand her racism. I thought I was being kept from a confrontation.

I went after my bandmates, angered by our fearful collective response. To say nothing was to permit future racist speech, and to belabor the point with an argument, the necessity of even having one, showed our bad politics. I thought we had been weak. I argued that we should have attacked, shamed her, broken her will. One argued back, justifying a lack of further response with a cost/benefit analysis as part of a larger systemic problem of politicized communication in the context of our band. What's the use of changing a single mind? What's the use of a politics that permits paralysis, I returned. We argued for an hour, coming to no real conclusion. I was seeing how deeply fragmented we could be by seemingly small political differences.

The singer had decided on his own to confront the drummer's sister and we opted to do it together after the show. She was indeed intractable, and looked at us blankly while we spoke, waiting for us to finish. The singer said he was offended by her words. I told her I was offended by her existence, not merely her word choices. In response to a short explanation in which the singer connected her casual racism to massive systemic violence, she argued we were telling her how she felt. She placed primary importance on herself as an individual, and the uniqueness of her experience. She only spoke that way to her immediate family so her independence from others made her racism harmless, she argued. She had never noticed massive systemic violence. And she hadn't driven two hours in the snow to be told what she could or could not say in her own home. Wasn't she entitled to her own thoughts and opinions? In her own home?

She's not. Her collection of synaptic happenstance, organized as it is by her appropriation of white supremacy, deserves no protection. Racism is violence, and when invoked as a conquering force, should be wholly opposed. We should have, could have demonstrated that her feelings were irrelevant in the face of centuries-long struggles for liberation. I got bogged down, concerned with changing a small group of minds more than subverting or resisting the system that produced them. We never acted or thought as a group with revolution in mind. This was evidence to me that everyone involved, myself included, was harboring concern for their own well-being as aided by that system. We even resembled the system: we were concerned with, and resentful for, the keeping of an established internal social order; we internalized a political fight, arguing from many sides about it's uses and appropriate tactics, instead of actually having the fight. Together we made a quagmire in which oppressive ideologies, both those expressed by the drummer's sister and those we unconsciously reproduced, were given space. It seemed to me that fully fighting a system so enmeshed in our relationships to one another might be destructive enough to break up the band. We certainly didn't have a collective politics; we came from different classes and different countries, and had different ends in mind.

I quit in Georgia. Told the band in New Orleans.

A paragraph about that jacket: It's a black biker jacket. It said "All Power To The People" on the back, handwritten in white acrylic paint. I'm 6'1", white, bearded and keep my mostly-bald head shaved to the skin. I wear big, black boots, and look like a politicized roadie. I got a lot of attention for this jacket, much of it very weird, and, with few exceptions, from white men. In Athens, GA, a man stopped me while pissing to laude the jacket's patriotism. In at least three truck stops, the jacket received patron hails with no explanation. In Austin, TX, an enormous and equally shorn white man grabbed me during a heavy metal show to shout over the music at me that he was a cop, would never enforce an anti-gun law if such a law could be passed, and that not all cops are douche bags. I can only speculate about what kind of trust I stirred in these men, but they offered me access to their strange fright and uncurious ignorance. The Texan Heavy Metal Pig indicated suspicion with his assurance that only some pigs are bad, but wanted to get closer despite his perception of my opposition.

Photo: Sarah Martinez

Shameless Racism in the Venezuelan Counter-Revolution

uniform are retweeted thousands of times to arouse fear of Black people, especially Cubans. March 16, Alexandra Misel tweeted a photo with the caption, "Are these pure Afrodescendants from Barlovento (region of Venezuela with high concentration of African Descendants) or are they from Havana?" The next day, she tweeted the same photo, with a more alarmist caption, "Invading troops dressed like National Guard." From the comments under the tweets, it's obvious Venezuelan white supremacists have no way to distinguish an African descendant who's Cuban from one who's Venezuelan. They claim their violent intentions are aimed at Cubans, but their practice of decapitating motorcyclists and shooting Bolivarians indicates that the racism that fuels anti-Cuban threats is also harnessed to their terror campaign against Chavistas.

3. Criminalizing African Descendants, Indigenous People and their Organizations

White peoples' criminalizing of Black and Brown-people dates back to the first rebellions by Indigenous and enslaved people in the 1500s. African Descendants and Indigenous people have been invisible on privately-owned TV, except as servants or criminals. The Bolivarian government disbanded local police forces that used to racially profile, murder and harass African Descendants. It has also taken steps to reform prisons, establish alternatives to incarceration and mobilize local communities to prevent crime. However, Venezuela's privately-owned media and the US corporate press echo that fear of crime and government "inaction" in the face of crime motivates people to demand that Maduro resign. They claim that Chavista grassroots collectives—that provide a space and structure for previously marginalized people to lead and participate in political education, cultural work and sports—are paramilitary arms of the "Maduro Dictatorship." This racist myth undermines a revolutionary institution, the communal council, that, for the first time, gives people of color a voice in how resources will be spent. It blames the "colectivos" for intimidation and violence, rather than the middle class youth who vandalize public property, build barricades, and have killed those who cross or dismantle them.

Street art in Venezuala: "IMPERIALISM OUT!. Only the people can save the people".

4. Distortion and Glorification of Gochismo

During the '30s, white Venezuelan intellectuals promoted exclusion of all but European immigrants. They pointed to the Andes and Mérida as "the grand reservoir of the white race for the Republic." For some, Gocho identity as hard-working mountaineers emerged in direct contrast to the perceived "laziness" of coastal slaves. Seven of Venezuela's recent presidents (including dictators) came from the Gocho region. The epitome of these, nicknamed "El Gocho," was Carlos Andres Pérez, who imposed the 1989 neo-liberal program that forced 70% of Venezuelans into poverty. All residents of the Andean states are sometimes referred to as Gochos. However, the counter-revolutionary Gochos are concentrated in San Cristobal and Mérida while rural residents form the majority of the states' voters and have elected Chavista governors.

Images of white people, outfitted with makeshift rifles, pistols, Molotovs, slingshots and military equipment fill the screens of tweeters. Others feature flaming barricades with captions like, "Release the Gocho inside you." Right-wing extremists like Maria Corina Machado have hyped the Gochos for their own political purposes. At rallies and press conferences, she never fails to associate herself with the Gochos of San Cristobal and Merida—the first barricaders and most persistently violent. Her poster features her wearing a white t-shirt claiming "we are all Tachira." It labels her, "The Lady of Iron"—the woman who aims to overthrow the government and expel Cubans from Venezuela so real (white) Venezuelans may recover their dignity.

So far, the vast majority of Venezuelan people, especially African Descendants and Indigenous people, have rejected both the politics and strategy of the counter-revolutionary movement. A Bloomberg News article reported a bus driver's observation, "It's rich people trying to get economic perks. The slums won't join them." It's time we stand in solidarity with the majority in Venezuela and voice strong opposition to US–sponsored coups or intervention on the side of the counter-revolution.

Statement on the "Armed Self-Defense

by the State Committee of the Popular Democratic Revolutionary Party (PDPR) Command Area of the Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR-Ejercito Popular Revolucionario)

Editor's Note: Last issue TTT published an analysis of the armed self-defense groups in Michoacan Mexico that portrayed them as a revolutionary anti-statist development rooted in indigenous armed self-defense against colonialism, along with links to alternative views in Mexico. Here we are printing a contrary analysis by a clandestine Mexican revolutionary formation.

To People of Michoacán:
People of Mexico:
The People of the World:
National and International Communications Media:
Non-Governmental Organizations Of Human Rights Defenders:
Revolutionary Popular Political Organizations:
To the Michoacan Agricultural Proletariat:
To the Communists of the World:
BROTHERS, SISTERS, COMRADES!

In almost a year since the emergence of so-called guards or community self-defense, the true character and nature of these groups has been shown. Eleven months and some days have sufficed to remove the popular clothing that covered their true skin as gatekeepers of capital. Today in light of the events and analysis of objective reality, the patent and workmanship with which these paramilitary groups are sealed is evident.

The agreement between the groups of "self defense," and the state and federal governments on Monday January 27, means in fact confirmation and legalization of paramilitary groups in Michoacán, as a "new" form of institutionalized paramilitary in Mexico, active components of the counterinsurgency strategy and plans for Low Intensity Warfare (GBI - Guerra de Baja Intensidad). This checked for the umpteenth time the nature and essence of these groups, who from the beginning were organized and structured from the paramilitary counterinsurgency logic; they have always rendered part of different subsidiaries and headquarters of the XXI and XLIII military zone located in Morelia and Apatzingán respectively.

It is the "decent" legal - legal solution which gives the paramilitaries as part of the strategy of a military-police state that guarantees militarization across the country. Under this argument and media masquerade the aims of State terrorism prevailing in the country as part of the war against the people are justified and legitimated. All policies deployed under this argument, either in Michoacán or other states of the republic, bear the stamp of this strategy.

It is false that its origin is in the social weariness and the need to defend the people. It is true that they are a genuine expression of popular protest. It is false that have arisen independently of the state. It is false that they are "liberating" territory in Michoacan from the power of "organized crime." It is false that they have popular support, it is true that they are peasants with rifles in their hands. It is true that they are day laborers in the region of Tierra Caliente of Michoacán and Guerrero. It is a vicious lie and part of the media landscape that they are restoring the lands that were removed by the narco farmers.

The actual workers, laborers, peasants and workers, are those who have been killed and disappeared as part of social cleansing. Antunez is a clear example, where crimes against humanity were perpetrated by military, police, navy and paramilitaries.
It's a grotesque circus…, whereas those who maintain the offensive and subjugate the people are the army, federal police and navy. These paramilitary groups such as the repressive apparatus troops the media only screen to hide state crimes and crimes against humanity that are being committed daily against the Michoacan people. These groups are in charge of social cleansing and coercion of people, if they fail to assassinate them, or disappear them ….

We are talking about the creation and performance of a mercenary army nurtured by former police officers at all levels, former military demobilized ex-professional military and federal police on active duty, underclass subjects, for whom the only thing that motivates them is the monetary interest that encourage them. Although claiming to be defenders of the people it is evident that they originate in their own state police and military structures. Their operational , technical handling of weapons and the impunity with which they operate alone speak of their origin and patent.

Guerrila Œghter of the Ejercito Popular Revolucionario (EPR).

The thesis that they are a genuine expression of the people has been reinforced and propagated by the media monopolies who have made a media campaign on behalf of the paramilitary under different masks. [The corporate media] have been commissioned to provide coverage, voice and image to the phenomenon. They are portrayed as having been outraged by the crimes committed by the notorious criminals. Regarding illegal and legitimate community guards or defenses, they have been pouring reviews , comments, analysis and coverage of the whole war front.

But what about the persons threatened, intimidated, tortured, killed, missing and displaced [on] account [of] self-defense or community guards? The [media] … omit these crimes against humanity, say nothing of the terror that has been commissioned to be implanted in the region of the Michoacán coast and lowlands, or about the abuses perpetrated daily as part of their paramilitary ideology, committed in joint military checkpoints between the navy and paramilitaries.

Nothing is said, far less questions raised, about the illegal practice of fascist video recording, photography and force at checkpoints to get address, identification and any information of a personal nature. This becomes part of the database that is applied to the social cleansing, and so impunity for military, navy and community guards is guaranteed. Because for these "ombudsmen," in their eyes, we are all criminals and if you're not with them then otherwise you are a "Knight Templar" [member or supporter].

Make no mistake , in Michoacan so-called self-defense or community guards , paramilitaries are obeying the logic of the dirty paramilitaries of the century, promoted and sponsored from the bowels of U.S. imperialism in its counterinsurgency strategy and permanent aggression against the peoples of Latin America and the world.

What is happening in the region of Tierra Caliente and the Michoacán coast is part of a military-police and paramilitary offensive against the Michoacan people that has not stopped since the installation of the illegitimate Felipe de Jesus Calderon Hinojosa, and has continued and deepened with the current officials.

Certainly there is a war, but this is threaded against the people in general, against political dissent and particularly against independent popular movement that has expressed its repudiation through protest and mass action to the set of neo-liberal reforms imposed from oligarchic rulers and politicians, draconian reforms accompanied by a series of police-military fascist measures.

In this war against the people, in this ongoing aggression towards the Michoacan people, paramilitary groups have been doing "cleanup work" for the social State, serving directly and indirectly to the local , national and transnational oligarchy in the accumulation process of original capital which currently operates in Michoacan territory.

These so-called community or self-defense groups are equally as responsible as the army and federal police in the execution of crimes against humanity, extrajudicial executions, violations of human and constitutional rights of all kinds, detentions, disappearances , torture, rape , killings and massacres ...

Low intensity warfare and counterinsurgency strategy is the real background in Michoacán , whether community guards , or self-defense groups , or confrontation with the "organized crime," they're only state terrorism and violence from and to the state.
In short, it is the clear and irrefutable reflection of the role of the Mexican bourgeois state with its particular feature of military-police state subservient to the local bourgeoisie, oligarchs and imperialists. What is really at stake is the raw material for the mining and defense industry, and the geo-strategic location that the port of Lazaro Cardenas represents to the realization of the good not only of national origin, but the goods manifests itself as a form of international monopoly capital.

There are multiple linkages between the case of Michoacán and the rest of the country from north to south with international events that have " shaped the world," in Syria , Libya , Iraq , the Middle East and North Africa . These linkages are the primitive accumulation of capital, expansion and dominance of transnational monopoly capital on small producers, which implies concentration and accumulation of capital in the imperialist oligarchy , supported by national bourgeois politicians and chiefs who are threatened by the structural crisis of capitalism. The hallmark is the imperialist strategy and tactics being applied internationally with particular specificities of Michoacan.

This is a socio-economic and political phenomenon, however, we identify those who are directly responsible, specifically the current individuals from the current regime , Enrique Peña Nieto, Miguel Angel Osorio Chong, Fausto Vallejo Figueroa, Alfredo Castillo Cervantes, Manlio Fabio Beltrones and the crowd of politicians that applaud and seconded them, all ardent apologists for violence and state terrorism, faithful watchdogs of imperialist interests.

Michoacan, Mexico, is part of the class struggle, and the enemy has focused its forces to defend and perpetuate their interests. Within this context the people and their organizations, to set the oppressed and exploited corresponds as sibling classes, must close ranks around the revolutionary forces if bloodshed was not in vain! That is for the common interest that concerns us all in this country, it is for the total emancipation from the bourgeois dictatorship and the yoke of capital, that is for the socialist revolution!

To all those in Michoacan who have been swept away by the cloud of confusion created by the media's binomial communication - whipping up wills that want to see their people truly emancipated and revolutionary forces in action and direct confrontation with the state, all of them , we call on you to leave the ranks of the paramilitaries , to straighten your rifles against the class enemy, join the ranks of the socialist revolution.

The ranks of progressives and revolutionaries need to be vigilant about the events in Michoacan, to our members, partners and supporters, we urge you to be alert forces! In this new increasingly repressive state terrorism, to take appropriate measures to apply objective reality within the context of the war against the people, to continue to develop strategic and tactical forms of underground organization .

Close Ranks Against State Terrorism! Foster Real People's Self Defense!

Demand the Living Presentation of All Those Arrested or Missing of Yesterday and Today!

For the Socialist Revolution!

Unite or die! Workers for our comrades! Determined to win! For People's War! The EPR will triumph!

STATE COMMITTEE, POPULAR DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PDPR)
COMMAND AREA of the POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (EPR) Year 50.
- From somewhere in the state of Michoacan de ocampo January, 2014

On the Black Riders and Revolutionary Intercommunalism

By Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles/ People Against Racist Terror

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) is a Southern-based non-profit research and advocacy organization that targets "hate groups" and works closely with law enforcement across the US. It's best-known for winning civil damages cases against the KKK and Tom Metzger's "White Aryan Resistance," but behind the scenes, it maintains intelligence files on more radical anti-Klan and antifa groups and various Black militants, and shares them with police and intelligence agencies. Recently, without providing a shred of evidence or documentation, or any verbal explanation, the SPLC categorized the Black Riders Liberation Party in Los Angeles and Oakland CA as a "Black separatist hate group." This can only be seen as part of a concerted state attack against the BRLP, a new, repressive COINTELPRO operation aimed at discrediting them, perhaps even setting them up for assassinations, as were the Black Panthers by similar propaganda.

If you read Turning the Tide or the SF Bay View the Black Riders' own African Intercommunal News Service paper, you know the SPLC is lying. Far from being a hate group, they are class-conscious anti-capitalist revolutionaries who preach and practice solidarity. But the SPLC doesn't dare to admit that, or to express the true reasons for their opposition to the BRLP, since that would expose the non-profit as a counter-insurgency force in its own right. The Black Riders consider themselves to be the new generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. They've been in existence longer than the original Black Panthers sustained themselves as a viable organization. They continue to be the target of vicious government repression and new COINTELPRO-style attacks, and commonly appear publicly in paramilitary uniforms and formations, with black or camouflage clothing, combat boots and black berets. But they have never been either the beneficiaries of the kind of romanticism, media glare or movement focus that the Panthers were back in the 1960s.

This has been the case for several reasons. First of all, the Black Riders and their leadership learned lessons from the arc of development and decay of the original BPP. They wanted to avoid the uncontrolled growth and notoriety that allowed the state to infiltrate and stigmatize the Party , by admitting anyone off the streets without security measures.. The BRLP chose instead to build at the base, under the harsher and more militarized conditions of today's "total surveillance state." They built locally in southern California and have been expanding steadily into other areas, especially Oakland, with trusted cadre, and are building a prison chapter, 1000 strong, nationally as a key priority of re-establishing a radical Black communal base.

Second, corporate media are far more monopolized and tamed today than they were in the 1960s. Coverage of the Panthers was mostly sensationalistic pro-government propaganda aimed at portraying the BPP as thugs and criminals. But the necessity to cover their activities, and the possibility of airing alternative views, occurred in the context of a large, militant, and dynamic popular movement, that grew from a non-violent civil rights struggle to armed self-defense and Black Power. Those conditions no longer prevail. Corporate media today defuse opposition to the system through the pretense that it's non-existent. When forced to abandon that strategy, they turn to ridicule and calumny as Plan B. The SPLC disinformation campaign can be seen in that context, of open attempts to disrupt and smear the Riders.

The fact that the Black Riders Liberation Party has been building up its forces from a base in southern California and on the West Coast also partially accounts for the tame left's lack of awareness of their significance and progress., particularly in the era of a "non-profit industrial complex" as a substitute for a real revolutionary left movement. Many of the most significant political and cultural developments of the past decades have come out of California and specifically southern CA. Think about the 1965 Watts "riot" that launched the era of Black urban rebellions. Look at the original Black Panthers themselves. After their destruction, LA was the origin point for the Crips and the Bloods and for the CIA crack cocaine epidemic, as well as being a major progenitor of hip-hop and rap. LA was home to the first gang truce and peace accord, and the site of the 1992 "inter-communal" Black, Brown, white and Asian uprising after the acquittal of the cops who brutalized Rodney King. Yet the reformist left in the US continues to think in terms of "influencing policy decisions" in Washington, DC, or getting Obama and the Democrats to demonstrate "backbone." Revolutionaries arising from grassroots ghettos in Watts, Compton or Oakland, who stand for the right to armed self-defense, make such reformist forces very uncomfortable.

But if you're revolutionary-minded, if you're fired up with a sense of urgency to resist genocide, ecocide, oppression and exploitation, you'd better pay close attention to the Black Riders Liberation Party. Their writings and practice are a weapon in the hands of those who choose to resist and fight for a new way of life, regardless of "race" or nationality. If you don't shrink from the understanding that we will need more than words as weapons, the BRLP is for you. The Black Riders have important lessons to teach of how to withstand repression and build revolutionary unity and principled alliances across national, religious, racial, gender and other divisions. The Black Riders have directly challenged police terror on the streets. They have withstood political arrests and trials, incarceration and even assassination. They've confronted organized white supremacists including the Minutemen and the National Socialist Movement, stood up for Black-Brown unity and opposed anti-immigrant forces. They have built alliances with Occupiers, sex workers, and LGBTQ people, developed AIDS awareness and prevention programs in their community, started the George Jackson Freedom School for Black youth, built gang truces, and committed themselves to serious ongoing political study and struggle.

There's no other current formation in the U.S. that has been targeted for more consistent and protracted repression than the Black Riders, including frame up arrests, massive police/FBI raids with tanks, helicopters and armored personnel carriers, constant surveillance and harassment by local police. Yet they persevere and grow. Some years ago, I was out for the Martin Luther King Day parade in Los Angeles, passing out copies of Turning the Tide. I turned a corner and there were 30 or so Black Riders in uniform, marching along, trailed by a phalanx of cops, numerous patrol cars and a helicopter overhead. The state clearly understands and fears the threat that the Black Riders Liberation Party represents to the system of oppression and exploitation that police departments, espionage and counter-insurgency agencies are designed to serve and protect.

That the SPLC attack took place in the midst of a series of arrests and police raids directed against Black Rider leaders, members, and their families in L. A. and Oakland, is no coincidence. There is clearly high level coordination of attacks on the Riders. When Gardena police made a recent unjustified address of General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out) of the Black Riders, LAPD Chief Charlie Beck was called almost immediately to "consult." When Shango Abiola, Field Commander of the Black Riders Oakland chapter, returned from a visit on behalf of the party to the Movimento Sem Terra (landless peasants) in Brazil, he was held for fruitless questioning by the Feds for hours at the airport. Etana and Mecca Shakur, two women leaders of the Party, are currently facing trial for defending themselves against a racist, sexist assault by an Inglewood cop.

The Riders combine youth and experience, militance and long-range strategic thinking, anti-capitalism and serve-the-people survival programs. They include people formerly in street 'tribes' or organizations, and others who were collegians. Many of their leading members are young mothers, confounding multiple stereotypes. They work primarily among the poor, the incarcerated, the youth, victims of police abuse, and the growing ranks of the marginalized masses of their people. This also helps explain their low media profile, because they operate without the resources enjoyed by those who have made their peace with state subsidies or grant-writing foundations. Despite setbacks, they continue to push hard for a Black united front, Black-Brown unity, and inter-communal solidarity across racial, national, gender and ideological lines.

The Black Riders led the only militant mass action that shut down a CDCR office in solidarity with the prisoner hunger strikers. They led the outrage of the Black community and others on the streets of LA after the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's killer, which led to people closing the freeway. Black Riders defended themselves against an assault by law enforcement outside the trial of the cop who killed Oscar Grant, and their leader General T.A.C.O.'s home was raided by law enforcement the night before the slap-on-the-wrist verdict on killer cop Mehserle was announced. The BRLP led protests that kicked Nazis off the lawn of L.A. City Hall, and kept racist Minutemen out of Leimert Park in L.A.'s Crenshaw District. The Black Riders helped build the "Four Winds" May 1 General Strike convergence by Occupy L.A., connecting the occupiers to grassroots forces in South and East L.A. The Black Riders led the Los Angeles effort to free the SF Eight former Black Panther members and associates, and rebuilt the L.A. chapter of the Jericho Movement to free all political prisoners. The Riders launched the Intercommunal Solidarity Committee, working with radical elements from other communities. The Black Riders have risked their lives for 18 years for peace among the Bloods and Crips street 'tribes,' against set trippin' and for revolutionary consciousness. They're standing up for the need to 'cease hostilities' on the streets as the hunger strikers did behind bars, and opposing imperialist intervention in Africa and around the globe. The Black Riders have connected militant revolutionary Black liberation struggle in the US with forces in Africa and elsewhere in the Black Diaspora such as Brazil, for the first time in decades.

There's simply no other formation that can lay claim to this record of commitment and resilience in the face of non-stop political repression. Get to know the Black Riders yourself, and support them. If you appreciate the contribution they,re making towards bringing down the Empire and freeing us all, stand with them against repression and fascism! They're facing numerous political trials. Look out for more info and pack the courtrooms in solidarity!

STRAP UP! ARMED STRUGGLE 4 LIFE!!! ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!! URGENT MESSAGE -- PLEASE READ!! BLACK RIDERS ARE UNDER ATTACK!!! HELP KEEP GENERAL T.A.C.O FREE ON THE STREETS!

"So the so-called liberal/progressive Southern Poverty Law Center has listed the Black Riders Liberation Party as one of the 71 hate groups in California alongside the kkk, skinheads, right wing crazy christian groups etc. WTF?! They will definitely will be hearing from this Black/ New Afrikan and hopefully others. Again, WTF?!" - by Bilal Ali

Their trying to isolate us! Yes and they have slandered us. They are staffed and led by federal Agents! In the last few weeks, we have suffered two massive pig police raids in L.A and Oakland! Also, General T.A.C.O was arrested on numerous miscellaneous trumped up charges, he was released, and still face political charges! Stay in contact for further info! We are under attack! We will meet each attack head on, wave after wave! We will win!

THE REVOLUTION HAS COME!!!

They are also mad at our nationwide call out for All New Panther formations and RBG Soldiers to Unite around the Country!!! Let's avenge Jordan Davis with our Powerful Black Unity!!!

Black Riders- New generation Black Panther Party for Self-defense!

Declaration of Internationalists

War on war! Not a single drop of blood for the "nation"!

The power struggle between oligarchic clans in Ukraine threatens to escalate into an international armed conflict. Russian capitalism intends to use redistribution of Ukrainian state power in order to implement their long-standing imperial and expansionist aspirations in the Crimea and eastern Ukraine where it has strong economic, financial and political interests.

On the background of the next round of the impending economic crisis in Russia, the regime is trying to stoke Russian nationalism to divert attention from the growing workers' socio-economic problems: poverty wages and pensions, dismantling of available health care, education and other social services. In the thunder of the nationalist and militant rhetoric it is easier to complete the formation of a corporate, authoritarian state based on reactionary conservative values and repressive policies.

In Ukraine, the acute economic and political crisis has led to increased confrontation between "old" and "new" oligarchic clans, and the first used ultra-rightist and ultra-nationalist formations for making a state coup in Kiev. The political elite of Crimea and eastern Ukraine does not intend to share their power and property with the next in turn Kiev rulers and trying to rely on help from the Russian government. Both sides resorted to rampant nationalist hysteria: respectively, Ukrainian and Russian. There are armed clashes, bloodshed. The Western powers have their own interests and aspirations, and their intervention in the conflict could lead to World War III.

Warring cliques of bosses as usual, force us to fight for their interests, us ordinary people: wage workers, unemployed, students, pensioners... Making us drunkards of nationalist drug, they set us against each other, causing us forget about our real needs and interests: we don't and can't care about their "nations" where we are now concerned more vital and pressing problems – how to make ends meet in the system which they found to enslave and oppress us.

We will not succumb to nationalist intoxication. To hell with their state and "nations", their flags and offices! This is not our war, and we should not go on it, paying with our blood for their palaces, bank accounts and the pleasure to sit in soft chairs of authorities. And if the bosses in Moscow, Kiev, Lviv, Kharkiv, Donetsk and Simferopol start this war, our duty is to resist it by all available means!

No war between "nations" - no peace between classes!

Signed by:

KRAS, Russian section of the International Workers Association
Internationalists of Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Israel, Lithuania
Anarchist Federation of Moldova
Fraction of the Revolutionary Socialists (Ukraine)

Declaration was supported by:

Workers Solidarity Alliance (North America)
Anarcho-Syndicalist Initiative of Romania
Libertarians of Barcelona
Left Communists & Internationalists from Ecuador, Peru, Dominican Republic, Mexico & Venezuela
Workers-Communist Initiative (France)
Leicester group of Anarchist Federation (Britain)
French-speaking Anarchist Federation (FAF)
International of Anarchist Federations (IFA)
... and many others.

The statement is open for signature.

From http://www.aitrus.info/node/3608
To sign, email KRAS at comanar30@gmail.com

Denis Pilash on the Left Opposition in Kyiv

INTERVIEW WITH DENIS PILASH OF THE LEFT OPPOSITION IN KYIV: UKR-TAZ

by SYRIZA (the Greek "Coalition of the Radical Left") [excerpts]

Question: The European Union has started a game that it is not able to finish. It (EU) couldn't predict the reaction of Moscow?

Pilash: People of Ukraine are trapped between Western and Russian imperialism but Ukrainian elite is itself an enough cynical player at this chessboard. And I'm not sure the EU started this game on its own.

The ousted president Yanukovich, just as president Kuchma a decade ago, hesitated between pro-Western and pro-Russian orientation, but generally was convenient to both sides (for instance, his legacy includes endorsing Shell for eco-dangerous shale gas drilling in Ukraine). His Party of Regions went on elections with slogans oriented on pro-Russian electorate, but in 2013 his government switched to an official campaign in favor of the free trade / association agreement with the EU. While finances and debt were deteriorating, Ukraine found itself under pressure of both IMF and Kremlin. Its leadership (Yanukovich and prime minister Azarov) canceled the signing of the EU agreement hoping to get money from Russia.

This is the point when the so-called 'Euro-Maidan' protests started. Two decades of brainwashing about the 'paradise in the EU' created in many clusters of Ukrainian society an idealized view of European integration as a solution to all problems (but some support it from a quite pragmatic point – huge amount of unemployed Ukrainians work in the EU). It was paradoxical how protestors, many of whom were driven by rage caused by social injustice and economic inequality, manifested under EU banners while throughout the EU people protesting for similar reasons burn these flags!

However, it seemed like the Euro-Maidan would decline on its own until the government showed itself foolish enough to disperse it with brutal force thus shifting the main message of anti-government protests from enthusiasm for EU association to condemnation of police violence and Yanukovich's arbitrary rule. However, there wasn't some steady 'EU plan' behind the events, and their proposals were rather moderate compared with the final outcome.

And since the protests turned to violent clashes with riot police after the adoption of repressive 16 January laws limiting freedom of speech and protest then, events in Ukraine were surely out of control of EU, Russia, US, or any other. Russian TV channels can be full of commentaries from Western fascists and conspiracy theorists (from Marine Le Pen to Lyndon LaRouche) claiming contrary but people on Maidan weren't mobilized and controlled by the EU.

Question: Even if the EU was able to "play stronger," it seems to be trapped between its geopolitical and economic interests? (Because of its economic relations with Russia, the EU is not willing to oppose harder to Putin).

Pilash: Exactly. The reason why the EU (especially its main powers, Germany and France) is delaying the moment to impose economic sanctions is because they will affect its economic ties with Russia. Russia may be not the main trade partner but it's important in supplying gas and oil. Ironically, it's precisely Gazprom that makes the most obvious gains in Crimea – it's going to privatize the local petroleum resources.

Question: How does Washington see its role in Ukraine (and the region in general) at this moment? What are the differences between the Republicans and the Democrats (concerning the US policy towards Ukraine)?

Pilash: Being a staunch opponent of the US foreign policy, especially of their intervention to Latin American affairs, I have to notice that Washington didn't play any important role in Ukrainian regime change, contrary to widespread cliché. Obama and Kerry seem to combine seeking for diplomatic resolution with play on oil prices and other economic parameters sensitive to Russia. I'd attribute this not only to the Democratic administration but also to the crisis of the US global hegemony. In the 2008 Russian offensive, Republicans were unable to effectively back their Georgian clients, so Democrats try to be less belligerent in their speeches but more clever in actions.

Ultimately, the main points of the 2 parties are pretty the same. Lots of observers, in Ukraine and abroad, spoke extensively on John McCain visit to Maidan in December; however, few noticed that the old Republican warmonger was, in full accord, accompanied by another US senator – Chris Murphy – who is considered one of the most liberal Democrats.

In more general approach towards the region, that Republicans are eager to rely exclusively at pro-American East European governments to counterweight both Russia and Germany/France while Democrats agree at more complex solutions satisfying interests of multiply powers. Therefore during ongoing crisis even Brzezinski, the hawkish advisor to Democrats, warned Ukrainians from joining NATO and proposed Finland-style neutrality instead. I'm afraid, however, that new Ukrainian establishment facing Russian military threat will intensively pull Ukraine towards NATO membership. So it's an important task for anti-war activists to prevent Ukraine's submission to any military bloc.

Question: How important for Russia are Crimea and eastern Ukraine? How far do you believe that Putin will go?

Pilash: Putin is quite hypocritical when claims Russian troops in Crimea are defending Russian-speakers, compatriots etc. It's an open intervention, and a very adventurous one. Yes, Ukrainian ultranationalists' activity and failures of new Kiev leadership (like revoking the almost nonfunctional bill on regional languages – but not 'banning Russian' as is reported in pro-Kremlin sources) contributed to counter-protests in the (Russian-speaking) Southern and Eastern Ukraine. But the formal pretext of Russian invasion was forged and it's a clear violation of international law. I support the right of self-determination but I can't support a referendum carried out in a rush and at the point of bayonets.

Previously, many saw a war between Russians and Ukrainians less possible than, say, US and Canada. We used to be fraternal peoples but these actions seriously raise the menace of a war. In my opinion, the unanimous voting in the Federation Council providing President Putin the right to deploy Russian forces in Ukraine, was the major step towards this disaster. What's even worse, nobody can predict how far the situation will deteriorate; violent clashes between Russia's supporters and opponents occur in eastern regions of Ukraine. On the other hand, interests of Russia's ruling class correspond with a relatively smooth capture of Crimea (with its Russian community and Sevastopol naval base) not a full-scale war for eastern Ukraine.

Industrial cities of Kharkov, Donetsk and Dnepropetrovsk located there still have lots of Soviet-era factories (owned mainly by Ukrainian bourgeoisie) but, in reality, Ukraine, one of the poorest countries in Europe, isn't too economically attractive for any foreign power. Russian intervention in Crimea seeks rather symbolic and irrational long-term aims of 're-establishing Russian empire', and leads to dangerous race of nationalisms in both states. In Ukraine it gives even more legitimacy to the far right and its paramilitaries, in Russia thousands are forcefully driven to pro-intervention rallies while socialists and pacifists (even an old Leningrad siege survivor) are attacked and arrested for attending anti-war rallies. That's why we need an international anti-war solidarity campaign like in 2003 against US-led invasion to Iraq.

Question: What are the latest reactions of the people in Kiev towards the temporary government? Who is winning in Ukraine: one group of oligarchs, fascists, EU, USA, Russia…?

Pilash: Nazis have repeatedly attacked left-wing activists and venues in last years, the previous government turned blind eye on their violence and even promoted Svoboda as a counterweight to mainstream opposition; in fact, nothing has changed dramatically for anti-fascists. Ukrainian people shouldn't side with governments neither in the West nor in the East; instead, they have to find their own way. But first, they need to overcome the vicious circle of oligarchs and fascists (both Ukrainian and pro-Russian).

All Ukrainian parties are on the right; they are economically pro-capitalist, socially conservative and try to draw the social unrest away from the enormous cleavage between the narrow group of oligarchs and the working majority to different identity conflicts on the ground of language, ethnicity or historical memory. The trade unions are weak, and there is no genuine left force to represent the working class. Parliamentary 'Communist' party, a recent loyal satellite of the bourgeois Party of Regions, is communist in name only. It's time for new left initiatives like Left Opposition, Direct Action student union or Commons journal to propose a clear socialist alternative, so that Ukrainians could join SYRIZA and other left movements throughout Europe against neo-liberal austerity and nationalist prejudice. As to the international support, as Nikolas Kozloff, a progressive expert on Latin America, pointed out: 'The left must continue to critique U.S. foreign policy while seeking out, identifying, and providing solidarity for progressive elements which are resisting Putin in both Russia and Ukraine'.

And this is the point where Greeks could give Ukrainians a good lesson of class solidarity and struggle.

Social Control and Political Chicanery

by Keith 'Comrade Malik' Washington, Capt. Of Information, New Afrikan Black Panther Party (Prison Chapter)

In the state of Texas, there are so-called community leaders who dwell in urban areas yet fail to grasp the concept of social control as it relates to gentrification of our neighborhoods or how it contributes to mass incarceration. Social control is systematic oppression of an oppressed nation or minority group. It manifests itself in many ways. In Texas, there are many policies, laws and programs geared toward sabotaging a particular oppressed nation's path to self-determination, such as the crack law, stop and frisk, voter ID laws, ICE and DHS agents targeting undocumented workers, etc. These are initiated by an elite ruling class that has no interest in the success of urban dwellers. The goal is to manipulate disadvantaged minorities to keep "undesirables" out of the path of "progress." The question is, who determines when "progress" is made, and who benefits from such "progress"?

Search & Destroy in Houston Inner-City Schools

Houston, TX is the 4th largest city in the US and the classroom to penitentiary pipeline is running smoothly. Houston Independent School District Superintendent Terry Grier has implemented programs that promote the destruction of schools that educate inner-city youth. Few community leaders or activists have pinpointed the wrong that is being done to our communities. Grier is cooperating with developers who have their eyes on inner-city real estate, a hot commodity as Houston's population has exploded in the last five years. Schools are a big part of any community, and if one wants to change a community's demographic, schools are a good place to start.

A case in point is Ryan Middle School, located in Houston's predominantly New Afrikan Third Ward. Ryan was targeted for closure by Grier and HISD last year. One of the reasons given was under-enrollment; however, there were programmatic changes that could have made Ryan a more attractive school for New Afrikan families to send their children to. But the plan was not to serve that community better. It was to create a different school that would attract another type of community – more affluent, and less Black and Brown! The new Ryan was given millions by donors who wanted to establish a magnet focused on a science or medicine career path, with Latin, Neuro-science and Biology being some of the core courses. Ryan reopened earlier this year. Only 11% of the students live in the Third Ward!

Inner-city schools, not only in Houston but across the US, are being turned into militarized police zones. Black and Brown young men and womyn are being targeted. Laws have turned frivolous infractions into criminal offenses. This introduces our children to the criminal injustice system and often removes them from the educational environment entirely. It's hard to ignore the disproportionate number of Black and Brown humyn beings housed in the TX Dept. of Criminal Injustice as a result.

As urban real estate becomes more valuable, large corporations along with legislators have a vested interest in seeing 'minority' city dwellers carted off to prisons by super-militarized police forces. This social control destroys our political and economic power and tears the moral fabric of our families and society as a whole. It's imperative that we educate our leaders about the deleterious effect this social control has on Amerikkkan society.

Chicanery is defined as the use of underhanded actions to achieve an end; see trickery. This is a main tactic used by law enforcement and lawmakers in their blatant attacks on our communities. Political chicanery is connected to social control, as the following example will illustrate.

In 2009, the US Dept. of Justice ended an investigation of the overcrowded Harris County Jail in Houston. The DOJ laid out recommendations for reducing overcrowding. Five years later, few have been implemented. Furthermore, jail officials recently requested expansion of the facility to accommodate an increase in prisoners! The county spends $59 a day to house 2500 mentally-ill prisoners at an annual cost of $54 million. Pretrial, Harris County bond schedules allow rich people to make bail, and force poor people to languish in jail awaiting trial, increasing their chance of conviction. Most poor people in Harris County are Black and Brown.

When a Federal investigation of a local agency is conducted, and you do the exact opposite of what they recommend, that's a violation of the public trust. When you trick the public into spending hard-earned tax dollars to attack the most vulnerable members of society and steer large numbers of Black and Brown men and womyn to jail, that's political chicanery.

Recently, there have been articles in corporate newspapers highlighting the need for TX Dept. of Criminal Justice to cut its solitary confinement population. But there's no mention of the abuse and even murder of prisoners on TX Death Row and numerous Ad-Seg units. In 2013, SB 2013, authored by Sen. John Carona (R-Dallas), was passed, requiring the Legislative Oversight Committee to "appoint an independent party to review the use of administrative segregation, also known as solitary confinement, in state juvenile and adult facilities." No money has been allocated for this much needed study. Larance Coleman, policy director for the TX Senate Criminal Justice Committee said: "The oversight committee is not funded or active." This is chicanery.

TX has the second largest ad-seg population in the US. A quarter to a third of the people in solitary are mentally ill. TDCJ continues to cover up heinous acts of abuse and answers to nobody. There is no realistic commitment to change this culture of abuse. To top it off, on March 4, a Tea Party-backed Dallas businessman unseated incumbent Sen. Carona, who at least proposed reform of the barbaric TX solitary confinement policy. The public is blinded and lied to.

A Passion for Peace with Justice: The Grassroots Community Radio Coalition

KPFK and Pacifica are in a high-profile struggle over management and personnel issues, with mudslinging going on involving various current and former managers, programmers and board members. But the issues are larger than choosing sides between Ian Masters or Gary Null, Summer Reese or Alan Minsky. The critical choices that will affect the survival of the station and the Foundation have to do with whether grassroots voices from communities of color, communities of resistance, will continue to be heard on Pacifica. Will the stations and network embrace the many-to-many ethic of inter-activity that characterize social media?

The Grassroots Community Radio Coalition is seeking to build an alliance of all those who want to build on KPFK's strengths as a community-oriented, free speech, democratic communications medium. It wants to unite people inside the station and in the larger community of listener-members. The goal is to use those strengths to overcome real weaknesses, to attract new listeners and fulfill Pacifica's mission with a new generation.

Media attention focused on Pacifica infighting and the rule-or-ruin tactics of former interim Executive Director Summer Reese ignores the deeper issues. It's blind to the key question of access to the airwaves for diverse, cutting-edge, activist-oriented perspectives accountable to Black, Brown, Asian, indigenous and other communities of resistance. Pacifica's web-sites are woefully out of date, incapable of serving as platforms for communication among listeners and between listeners and programmers. A quick glance at KPFK's programming grid will show large blocks of time occupied by (aging) white male commentators and personalities, and strip programming by gatekeepers who jealously guard their control of the time and the content. Having lost its edge and its audience, KPFK and the other Pacifica stations have resorted to endless infomercial-style on-air fund drives, past the point of diminishing returns.

Pacifica once committed itself to a national Spanish-language newscast, but never followed through. KPFK's show on prison issues, "Think Outside the Cage," is on only twice a month. Its youth-oriented "Soul Rebel Radio" show is also intermittent. A show developed by Occupy activists has had a couple of mini-series runs. Most of the community oriented Black and African programming and Spanish-language shows are replaced during fund-drives with pitching for food supplements and "how to get rich" offers. Where is programming oriented towards southern California's large diverse Asian communities? The one hip-hop show is on during the middle of one night a week.

Where is the dialogue with listeners, either on-air or through the website? Where is the training in radio for passionate and principled young activists like the Black Riders, the Youth Justice Coalition, Idle No More or Mujeres de Maiz? How often do you hear the voices of indigenous resistance to global warming, African resistance to Obama's military and economic interventionism, or Palestinian advocates of boycott, divestment and sanctions?

Grassroots Community Radio Coalition believes KPFK and Pacifica must establish their relevance to growing younger demographics, mostly in communities of color, with more youth-oriented programming and greater interactivity. KPFK must provide training in radio production and journalism to socially and culturally engaged community residents and listeners. KPFK should continue its unique role as a broadcaster of progressive Spanish language programming to reach primary Spanish speakers, and as an educational offering for those learning Spanish. KPFK must commit to more remote broadcasts from events, protests, and campuses. KPFK must give voice to the priorities and concerns of the vast majority, who are young, poor and of color.

Management and governance must collaborate in engaging listeners in critical reflection about the programming. Management must commit to training in on-air and other fund-raising and outreach via social media, and in high quality radio production. There should be an advisory council for the Program Director from different communities and programming sectors. Regular procedures for program evaluation and improvement are needed. There must be more opportunities for listener input and feedback on air. Nationally Pacifica must produce long form documentaries, investigations exposing the national security state, the pretexts for imperial war, the epidemic of police terror against Black, Brown and other youth, and similar issues.

Grassroots Community Radio Coalition believes KPFK and Pacifica need effective, collaborative, and courageous management committed to community outreach and training, and to working with democratic governance. Greater ethnic diversity in management is needed (not through tokenism, but rooted in communities). The General Manager, as a key public face of KPFK, should be willing to participate at community events and KPFK "give-back-to-the-community" activities. Fresh voices, programmers, and co-hosts should be sought from among engaged community activists and cultural figures with influence and respect in diverse communities.

We've seen the sorry results of the strategies by Summer Reese's faction over much of the last decade to subvert Pacifica's commitment to be a democratic information medium, and dull the cutting edge of its journalistic, educational, and cultural programming. This has manifested in a "whitening" and graying of its programs and audience. We must reverse the loss of credibility, silence in the face of "humanitarian" war, and timidity in the face of repression. That's been a lose-lose proposition reflected in the absence of investigative journalism, deficits, layoffs, and factions within staff, management and governance. It's past time for a passion for peace and justice to be restored. That can lead the way forward to a Pacifica and KPFK that can help make history!

Learn more at www.gcrc-socal.org

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LIBERATION OR GENOCIDE

FROM GAZA TO DETROIT, FROM L.A. TO PELICAN BAY, FROM THE BORDER TO THE CORNER, IMPERIALISM IS DEATH! PEOPLE'S POWER IS LIFE!

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Excerpts from a review by Tom Hayden and an exchange with Mike Davis on

David Killcullen's Out of the Mountains: URBAN COUNTERINSURGENCY

by Tom Hayden

http://tomhayden.com/home/kilcullens-new-urban-counterinsurgency-plan.html

David Kilcullen is the architect of the failed US counter-insurgency policies in Iraq. According to Bob Woodward, Kilcullen was the top adviser to Gen. David Petraeus during the "surge" of targeted killings of Sunni insurgents, which was coupled with the US-funded alliance with competing Sunni tribes known as "The Awakening," in 2007-8. The Pentagon declared victory over those insurgents based on a two-pronged approach of killing the "irreconcilables" while arming and funding the "reconcilables." The terminology was from Petraeus but the doctrine was Kilcullen's.

Now that the insurgents the US "defeated" are rising again in Sunni regions of Iraq (and in Syria), a review of Kilcullen's thinking should be in order. But the public debate is narrowed into whether to blame Bush, Obama, or both, not examining the underlying counter-insurgency strategy. Kilcullen was a proponent of the Long War doctrine that underlies our military policy, a war against Muslim insurgents projected to last 50-80 years, the length of the Cold War. In the Long War perspective, Iraq is only a "small war within a long one."

But Kilcullen's recent writings leave Iraq and Afghanistan behind, to concentrate on the greatest current threat he sees: how to keep malignant, violent, irrational masses of desperate people at bay in a coming urban apocalypse. Kilcullen's ***Out of the Mountains, the Coming Age of the Urban Guerrilla*** (Oxford, 2013) is an important read. It has a blurb by Mike Davis, who writes on the book's cover that, "Although (I am) an enemy of the state, I must concede that this is a brilliant book by the most unfettered, analytically acute mind in the military intelligentsia."

Kilcullen lists Davis's ***Planet of the Slums*** (2006) as a seminal work on the coming chaos centered in urban slums. Both authors see dystopian specters of anti-social violence arising from the underclass. Here the two thinkers part: the specter of urban collapse frightens Kilcullen, while Davis is often intrigued by its possibilities. He has written sympathetically on LA street gangs, and recently wrote *A Brief History of the Car Bomb*, which Kilcullen finds authoritative.

Kilcullen's picture of the violent urbanized planet is "littoral" (coastal), swamped by population growth, paralyzed by lack of services, and connected as never before by new communications technologies. Such places turn "feral," he writes, with mobs that can only be controlled by heavy police surveillance and 'pacification' programs. Kilcullen defines the "feral city" as one where once-"domesticated" humans have "regressed to the wild." He identifies his new enemy as multiple non-state armed actors, which include "urban street gangs, communitarian or sectarian militias, insurgents, bandits, pirates, armed smugglers or drug traffickers, violent organized criminal networks, vigilantes and armed public defender groups, terrorist organizations, warlord armies and certain paramilitary forces." (p. 126)

Kilcullen warns that the violent threats often come from fluid, self-perpetuating outbursts by handfuls of people who briefly centralize before they evaporate. US security forces have to come down from the mountainous rural areas of Iraq and Afghanistan, Kilcullen argues, and engage on the wired battlegrounds portrayed by Davis.

Kilcullen here might want to borrow more from Davis's Marxism and less from his dystopia, since there's no reference to class as a cause or solution in this 300-pp. work. One reason for the vast urban migrations of our era is the globalization of corporate and financial capital. When NAFTA came to Mexico, it displaced 1000s of campesinos and indigenous people who trekked north. When factories left LA for cheap labor havens abroad, tens of thousands of young people of color were stranded in Watts with few opportunities but drugs and gangs. Either Kilcullen doesn't think there are root causes, or believes it's too late for anything but security measures. To be fair, he does incorporate a few lines about the crisis of inequality on page 247, speculating that while, "inequality *per se* might not be the problem… inequality without opportunity... can create lethal resentments." He goes no further, except to hope that civic society will generate that quota of hope necessary to keep people clinging to reform above the abyss.

Kilcullen seems blocked by his conceptual model from seeing why people might freely choose revolution or violence as options. In his model, radical social movements give rise to power-driven "predators" who seek control over innocent populations. Whether racketeers, underground communist revolutionaries, al-Qaeda recruiters, or other non-state actors, they act out a script of top-down manipulation. They use grievances to mobilize recruits, "blood them" through violent confrontations with rival groups, "groom them" through involvement in illicit actions, and lead them into "an ever-greater level of illegality and alienation from society," finally absorbing them into a trap they cannot leave. In previous writings, Kilcullen has described trapped villagers as being "accidental guerrillas" because they have been coerced to choose the insurgent side or face terrible consequences. The basic flaw in this model is Kilcullen's inability to accept that the nationalist, radical or revolutionary anti-Western aspirations of these populations can be sincere and independent. Instead, he argues that people are manipulated into taking sides based on the need to keep their families safe. They secretly help the extremists because they have to, not because they want to. To think otherwise would require Kilcullen to revise his own assumptions about race, class, imperialism, colonialism, religion, and a host of factors that affect the choices of people under oppression.

Kilcullen has joined a national security cult which evolved since Vietnam. These mostly liberal warriors originated with the Kennedy administration's counterinsurgency approach of isolating "irreconcilables" while winning the "hearts and minds" of the peasantry. In the 60s in South Vietnam, this crystallized in the Phoenix Program, a CIA-led effort to identify and capture villagers suspected of operating as agents in the NLF's clandestine infrastructure in health care, education and literary, rice-growing and local security operations. These village networks were easier targets for the US and Saigon than the 'Vietcong' and allied NVA in jungle sanctuaries or underground tunnels.

Phoenix, as revealed in congressional testimony, aimed to kill, imprison and torture thousands of South Vietnamese, confining the rest in "strategic hamlets" similar to the reservations built in US Indian Wars. The Phoenix Program folded amid protests against torture by South Vietnam and their American trainers, which should have left the Phoenix Program in the dustbin of history [after the US loss]. But Phoenix rose from the ashes. Military leaders like Petraeus argued that Phoenix would've succeeded if liberals hadn't ended the war prematurely. Petraeus restored the myth as official doctrine while in Iraq, then incorporated Phoenix as a forgotten model of "success" in the 2007 revised US Army-Marine Counterinsurgency Field Manual written with Harvard liberals at the Carr Center. To drive home the point, Kilcullen wrote a document which called for a "global Phoenix Program."

One wonders how Kilcullen plans to isolate the "real terrorists" from the millions of "innocents" in quiet desperation or those, like Mike Davis, who consider themselves enemies of the state. Is cyber-warfare what lies beyond counterinsurgency? Will Anonymous be the equivalent of the Vietcong "headquarters" which was never located? If the enemy is information in our heads, who is the sniper and who the Pied Piper? One thing is certain. Despite Kilcullen's trouble in accounting for the past, he always is on the front lines of the military future.

The following exchange occurred on The Rag Blog on July 9, 2014 between Mike Davis and Tom Hayden:

Mike Davis says:

Tom's correct to assert a continuity of intellectual hubris and moral depravity between McNamara's whiz kids and the Rumsfeld-era 'revolution in military affairs.' What are Obama's drones except a robot version of Phoenix? Tom may also be prescient in implying that the current celebrity of the unorthodox 'warrior thinker' doesn't put any new ideas on the empire's table. But ***Down from the Hills*** does register with stark honesty a reality that foreign policy mandarins have generally ignored: the consequences of a billion poor people in peripheral slums with negligible hope of ever finding employment in the formal world economy. An agricultural 'apocalypse' has driven hundreds of millions into cities where, apart from the world factory of China and its periphery, capitalism no longer creates jobs or rewards education. Without an international red menace incubating in the slums, governments have abdicated everything except police violence and extortion in their poorest, fastest-growing urban districts.

Into this "vacuum," Kilcullen claims, has rushed a mob of terrorist militias and super street gangs who have transformed the despair of the young into a new strategic weapon: suicide bombers. A chief architect of counter-partisan warfare in the Middle East, he now concedes that special-ops can be a steroid to the movements it seeks to behead. So 'smart power' must now pay attention to underlying causes. Indeed his analysis drives him part way into the arms of ex-1960s-guerrilla Dilma Roussef, Brazil's president, who extols the military occupation of Rio's *favelas* as 'profound reform.'

If you carefully read Kilcullen and the thinking at the Naval War College, you'll see that the Pentagon's killing machines are not the most profound danger ahead. Rather it's the fact that the military intellectuals are already exploring the consequences of writing off the future of a large part of humanity. During the Cold War there was no social group or acre of sovereign land that wasn't seen as valuable by one side or another. Ideology had to rhetorically address the condition of all humanity. With the collapse of the USSR, the 'Free World' became an unnecessary pretense on a planet of free markets. Any vision of common humanity was abdicated to NGOs and UN speeches. What material interest now remains in wooing the poor or helping them adapt to global warming? What geopolitical [value] do they possess in a world without a powerful international left?

The ultimate warning of my book ***Planet of Slums*** was about the 'triage of humanity' that since the 1990s had become the new unspoken framework of international politics. The greatest evil is no longer that capital exploits labor but that it expels it from the circuits of production entirely. To the extent that this surplus humanity poses no realistic threat of reorganizing society on more egalitarian principles, it's simply a problem whose ultimate management – after the helicopter gunships and Predators – may be through pandemic disease, famine, and unnatural disaster.

In another fraternization with the enemy, I had a beer with an admiral who wanted to pick my brain about the convergence of urban poverty and natural disaster. He emphasized that only the US Navy could bring the infrastructure of a medium-sized city (in the form of ships supplying power, medicine, supplies, helicopters, etc) to a littoral region devastated by floods or quakes. "No one else – not China, Russia, the UK or the UN – has this capability. But here's the rub," he said, "Congress will never authorize serious expansion of humanitarian missions, when we're likely to see more Katrinas and Superstorm Sandys on our own coasts." I completed his thought, "So, no one would ride to the rescue." "That's right," he said, "no one. And this is the kind of future that some us at Newport [Naval War College] have been trying to understand."

Tom Hayden says:

Mike Davis reiterates the chilling conclusion that millions of people living at the global margins will die as a result of their complete irrelevance to the global masters of corporate power. What Mike predicted in ***Planet of Slums***, and was cited by Kilcullen, is already occurring on a massive scale.

I'm not certain that this will come to pass without a new dialectics of resistance emerging. But an obvious lesson we all need to ponder is how Kilcullen and the security apparatus simply assume that the techniques of fighting "terrorism" honed abroad should be, and are being, reproduced at home. Or is it the other way around, that the SWAT teams born in the domestic "wars" on gangs and drugs were the model for our massive counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency policies abroad? I know, for example, that LAPD anti-gang specialists have consulted with US forces in Baghdad. Wherever it began, Kilcullen's book reveals how encircled we are by the doctrine. And to go deeper into our unexamined past, notions of ridding countries of their "surplus" populations are rooted in Western policy going back to Lord Trevelyan.

But there is a strategic opportunity I see in Kilcullen's security nightmare: that whole populations can't be written off as redundant, without resistance of many kinds. For example, the mass incarceration of young people of color hasn't prevented a strong movement to curb the "prison-industrial complex" and a rising concern about the drain of billions that could be invested in energy, health and educational needs. Movements for civil liberties and domestic priorities are a threat to the War on Terror and the surveillance state. Similarly, the requirements of escalating secrecy in the War on Terror have led to a new generation of whistle-blowers and opposition by many of both liberal and libertarian stripes.

As time goes on, the public will realize that the War on Terror is breeding more "terrorist" attacks, both at home and abroad. A popular platform for the Left might be to argue everywhere that the current wars are unwinnable, unaffordable, undemocratic and unsafe. We have a window of opportunity before the inevitable coming of the next 9/11.

Like Mike, I see some evidence that even Kilcullen understands the need for what used to be known as social programs, if only to dampen the domestic rage that threatens the status quo. Kilcullen makes brief reference to Occupy and the recent work by Thomas Pikkety as trends worth examining. One hopes for the gradual "demilitarizing" of Kilcullen's thought. Some of our strongest social justice advocates, after all, have emerged from backgrounds as hardcore militarists. Engaging Kilcullen's thought is a project worth pursuing, even if he cannot become the next Daniel Ellsberg any time soon.

Editor's note: *The Empire understands, as the left often does not, that colonialism requires constant war, that the exploiters and oppressors depend on those they exploit and oppress for their wealth and power, and that the people have the capacity to make history through their struggle for liberation.*

Border Wars in the Homeland

by Todd Miller (Excerpts from "Tom's Dispatch")

Hard-line "border policing" has moved inland. The sort of intrusions that once would have qualified as unconstitutional have moved in startling numbers into the interior of the country.

Imagine the once thin borderline of the past as an ever-thickening band, now extending 100 miles inland around the US -- along the 2,000-mile southern border, the 4,000-mile northern border, and the coasts -- and you will visualize how vast Customs and Border Protection's jurisdiction has become. This "border" covers places where 2/3 of the US population (197.4 million people) live. ACLU calls it a "constitution-free zone." The "border" has devoured all of Maine and Florida and much of Michigan.

Homeland Security can patrol with broad, extra-constitutional powers for national security, immigration enforcement, and drug interdiction. The Border Patrol can set up traffic checkpoints and fly surveillance drones with high-res cameras and radar to track your movements. Within 25 miles of the international boundary, CBP agents can enter private property without a warrant.

"Border Patrol checkpoints and roving patrols are the physical world equivalent of the National Security Agency," says attorney James Lyall of ACLU Arizona. "They involve a massive dragnet and stopping and monitoring of innocent Americans without any suspicion of wrongdoing by increasingly abusive and unaccountable federal agents." Shena Gutierrez shared the story of her husband at a 48-hour vigil before she was pulled in abusively herself. There were no cameras to record how 11 agents "subdued" Jose Gutierrez Guzman, as the CBP put it in its official report on the incident. Its claim: that Jose "struck his head on the ground," their way of accounting for the hospital's eventual diagnosis of "blunt force trauma."

Considering the extent of Jose's injuries, that report is questionable. Many Border Patrol agents now use the term "tonk" -- the sound a flashlight supposedly makes when it bangs against someone's head -- as their way of describing border-crossers. Jose was also repeatedly zapped with a Taser. He was so badly beaten that, more than three years later, he still suffers seizures.

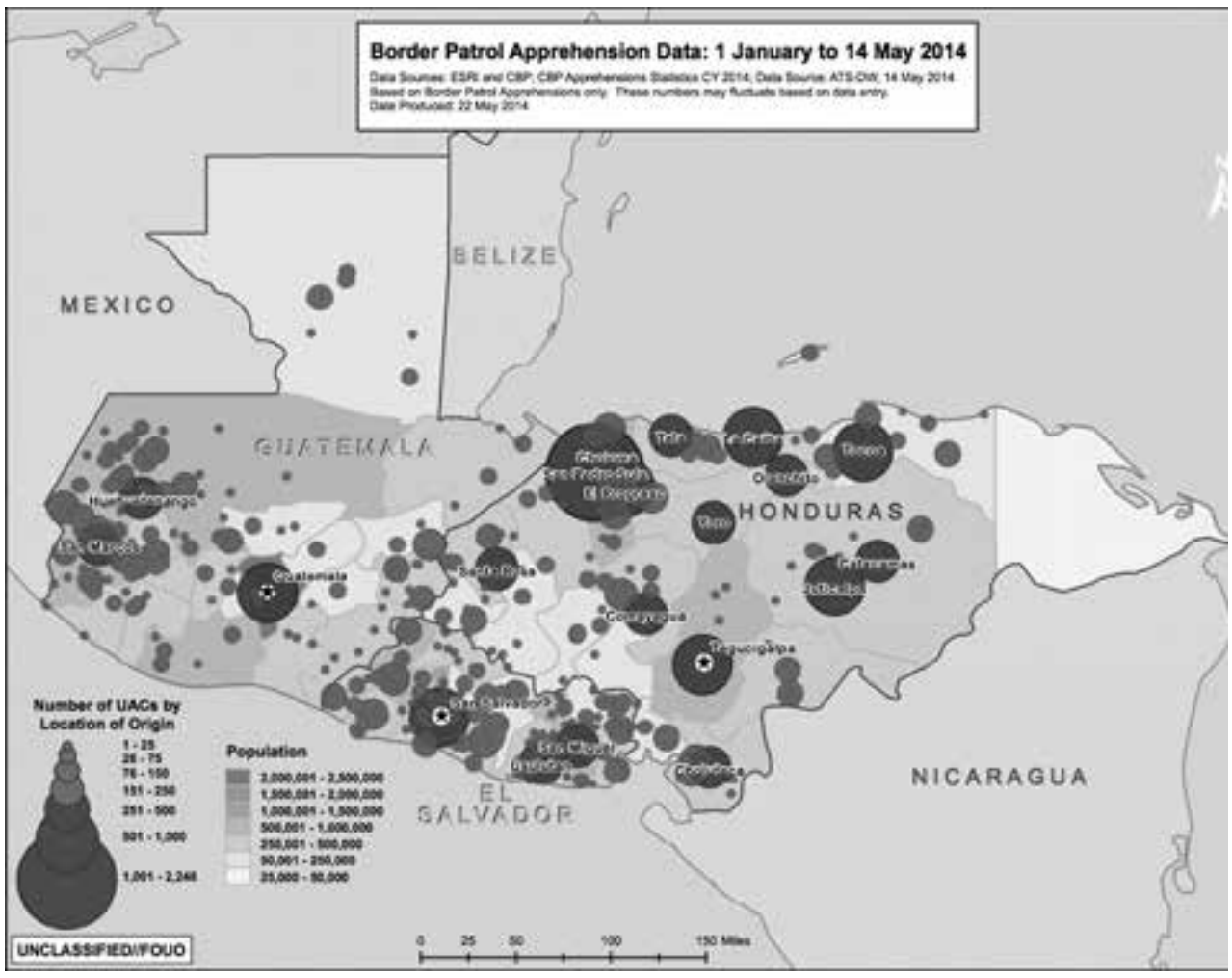
State Department whistleblower Peter Van Buren has dubbed this the "Post-Constitutional Era." As he writes, "the government might as well have taken scissors to the Constitution stored in the National Archives, crumpled up the Fourth Amendment and tossed it in the garbage."

A Standing Army

The 100-mile zone was created in laws passed in the '40s and '50s at a time when the Border Patrol had a miniscule budget and 1,100 agents. Today, Customs and Border Protection has more than 60,000 employees and is by far the largest federal law enforcement agency in the country. According to constitutional attorney John Whitehead, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), created in 2002, is efficiently and ruthlessly building "a standing army on American soil." With 240,000 employees and a $61 billion budget, the DHS is militarizing police units, stockpiling millions of rounds of hollow-point ammunition, spying on activists, and building detention centers. CBP is the uniformed and most visible component of this "standing army." It has its own air force and navy, an Office of Air and Marine equipped with 280 vessels, 250 aircraft, and 1,200 agents.

There have never been so many miles of walls and barriers, or such an array of sophisticated cameras capable of operating at night or in daylight. Motion sensors, radar, cameras on towers, and drones, all feed information into control rooms throughout the borderlands. There, agents can surveil activity over large stretches of territory on sophisticated video walls. This enforcement regime is now moving into the 100-mile zone. Such technological capability also involves storing staggering amounts of personal information in digital databases.

The border, post 9/11, has become a place where manufacturers, eyeing a market in an "unprecedented boom," are re-purposing war technology for Homeland Security. "Bringing the battlefield to the border" has created an unprecedented enforcement, incarceration, and expulsion machine aimed at the foreign-born (or often simply foreign-looking). The result is a permanent, low-intensity state of exception that makes the expanding borderlands a place where millions of borderland residents become the targets of continual surveillance. CBP agents are, for instance, in cities like Rochester, NY and Erie, PA, in WA, VT, FL, and all international airports. Homeland Security officials are scrutinizing people's belongings, including their electronic devices. Just ask Pascal Abidor, an Islamic studies doctoral student whose computer was turned on by CBP agents in Champlain, NY. When an agent saw that he had a picture of a Hezbollah rally, she asked Abidor, a US citizen, "What is this stuff?" His answer -- that he was studying the modern history of the Shiites -- meant nothing to her; his computer was seized for 10 days. Between 2008 and 2010, the CBP searched the electronic devices of more than 6,500 people.



The Border Patrol's map of the places of origin of the children it has been arresting and deporting corresponds closely to the map of the areas in Central America with the highest homicide rates. Honduras had the highest homicide rate in the world for the second year in a row last year thanks to the impact of a US sponsored military coup and transplanting of US-based street organization and criminal networks to Central America via deportations. Just as the 'border' now extends deep into the US, the Empire respects no borders in its desperate search for profit and control.

Despite all this, the message politicians and the media generally offer is that the country needs more agents, new techno-gadgets, and even more walls for our "safety." In that context, President Obama on July 7th asked Congress for an additional $3.7 billion for "border security." Since last October, in what officials have called a "humanitarian crisis," 52,000 unaccompanied children, mostly from Central America, have been apprehended by Border Patrol agents. News and photos of some of those children, including toddlers, parentless and incarcerated in warehouses in the Southwest, have led to a flood of articles, many claiming that border security is "strained." A Border Patrol Union representative typically claimed that the border is "more porous than it's ever been." While such claims are ludicrous, all signs point to more money being packed aboard what Whitehead has called a "runaway train."

Homeland Security surveillance in the Southwest is so pervasive it nabbed Willie Nelson in TX for marijuana possession. It detained 96-year-old former Arizona governor Raul Castro and made him stand in 100-degree heat for more than 30 minutes because a dog detected the radiation from his pacemaker. In the past three years in Tucson, the Patrol has made more than 6,000 arrests at checkpoints. But this is no longer just a matter of inland areas near the Mexican Border. A Border Patrol agent forced VT Senator Patrick Leahy from his car at a checkpoint 125 miles south of the New York border. The ACLU unearthed a plan for CBP to operate checkpoints to stop southbound traffic on all five highways through that state.

Constitution-Free Zone

On Sundays in Sodus, NY, 30 miles east of Rochester, Border Patrol vehicles can be parked in front of a laundromat which farm-workers use. In Erie, PA, agents wait at the Greyhound bus terminal or the Amtrak station to question people arriving. These are places the Border Patrol was all but unknown before 2005. In Detroit, simply being at a bus stop at four in the morning en route to work or fishing in the Detroit River is now "probable cause" for an agent to question you. Or perhaps it's simply the color of your skin. Arrest records from both bus terminals and railway stations in Rochester show that of the 2,776 arrests between 2005 and 2009, 71.2% were of "medium" complexion (likely of Latino or Arab background) and 12.9% "black." Only 0.9% of those arrested were of "fair" complexion.

According to the ACLU's Lyall, the fact is that the abuses of Customs and Border Protection in that Constitution-free zone are "massively underreported" and "far more prevalent than anyone has been able to document." Many people, according to him, are simply afraid to come forward; others don't know their rights.

Shena Gutierrez returned to the same Nogales "port of entry" where her husband was injured and she was abused with two other activists to lodge a complaint about the earlier incident, where the contents of her purse had been spilled on the floor and intentionally and repeatedly stepped on by an agent. When she refused to leave (for which she now faces charges), the CBP arrested her again and detained her for hours. This time they did what she described as "an invasive body search."

"I told them that I had not given my consent to be touched." They nonetheless made her take off her wedding ring "for safety," saying they "would force it off her." Again, the handcuffs cut into her wrists. This time, an agent kicked her in the ankle from behind. A female agent searched her from head to toe and in her private parts, because she "might have drugs or contraband or documents." As the agent groped her, she told me, she began to think yet again about what her husband had gone through. If this can happen to a U.S. citizen, she told me, "Imagine what happens to a person without documents." Imagine what can happen to anyone in a realm where, increasingly, anything goes, including the Constitution.

Todd Miller, a TomDispatch regular, has researched and written about U.S.-Mexican border issues for more than 10 years. He now writes on border and immigration issues for NACLA Report on the Americas and its blog "Border Wars," among other places. His first book is Border Patrol Nation: Dispatches From the Front Lines of Homeland Security. You can follow him on twitter @memomiller and view more of his work at toddwmiller.wordpress.com.

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Editor's Note: *As the Empire recognizes, and Mumia Abu-Jamal expresses from the people's point of view on the next page, colonialism means war, whether on the militarily imposed border, in occupied Palestine, or in the urban free-fire zones of police impunity. Hewlett-Packard contracts for the Israeli occupation, ICE detention camps, and the prison-industrial mass incarceration system. Boycott H-P!*

One struggle, many fronts! All Power to the People!

Urgent Call from Gaza Civil Society: Act Now!

The Electronic Intifada
http://electronicintifada.net/content/urgent-call-gaza-civil-society-act-now/13558

We Palestinians trapped inside the bloodied and besieged Gaza Strip call on conscientious people all over the world to act, protest and intensify the boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israel until it ends this murderous attack on our people and is held to account.

With the world turning their backs on us once again, for the last four days we in Gaza have been left to face massacre after massacre. As you read these words, over 190 Palestinians are dead now, including 36 children. Over 1,200 have been injured including countless horrifying injuries that will limit lives forever -- more than two thirds of the injured are women and children.

We know for a fact that many more will not make it through the next day.

Which of us will be next, as we lie awake from the sound of the carnage in our beds tonight? Will we be the next photo left in an unrecognizable state from Israel's state-of-the-art flesh-tearing, limb-stripping machinery of destruction?

We call for a final end to the crimes and oppression against us. We call for:

*** Arms embargos on Israel, sanctions that would cut off the supply of weapons and military aid from Europe and the United States on which Israel depends to commit such war crimes;**

*** Suspension of all free trade and bilateral agreements with Israel such as the EU-Israel Association agreement <http://www.enpi-info.eu/library/content/eu-israel-association-agreement> ;**

*** Boycott, divestment and sanctions, as called for <http://www.bdsmovement.net/call> by the overwhelming majority of Palestinian civil society in 2005**

Without pressure and isolation, the Israeli regime has proven time and time again that it will continue such massacres as we see around us now, and continue the decades of systematic ethnic cleansing, military occupation and apartheid policies <www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/1.599422>.

We are writing this on Saturday night, again paralyzed in our homes as the bombs fall on us in Gaza. Who knows when the current attacks will end? For anyone over seven years old, permanently etched on our minds are the rivers of blood that ran through the Gaza streets when for over three weeks in 2009 over 1,400 Palestinians were killed, including over 330 children.

White phosphorous and other chemical weapons were used in civilian areas and contaminating our land with a rise in cancers as a result. More recently 180 more were killed in the week-long attacks in late November 2012. This time what? 200, 500, 5,000? We ask: how many of our lives are dispensable enough until the world takes action? How much of our blood is sufficient?

Before the Israeli bombings, a member of the Israeli Knesset Ayelet Shaked of the far-right Jewish Home party called for genocide <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/why-im-on-the-brink-of-burning-my-israeli-passport-9600165.html> of the Palestinian people. "They should go, as should the physical homes in which they raised the snakes," she said. "Otherwise, more little snakes will be raised there."

Right now nothing is beyond the murderous nature of the Israeli State, for we, a population that is mostly children, are all mere snakes to them.

As said <http://gazatimes.blogspot.ca/2014/07/day-2-of-israeli-aggression-on-gaza-72.html> Omar Ghraib in Gaza, "It was heart shattering to see the pictures of little boys and girls viciously killed. Also how an elderly woman was killed while she was having her iftar at Maghreb prayer by bombing her house. She died holding the spoon in her hand, an image that will need a lot of time to leave my head."

Entire houses are being targeted and entire families are being murdered. Early Thursday morning the entire al-Haj family was wiped out - the father Mahmoud, mother Bassema and five children. No warning, a family targeted and removed from life. Thursday night, the same again, no warning, five more dead including four from the Ghannam family, a woman and a seven year old child amongst them <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=711990>

. On Tuesday morning the Kaware family did get a phone call telling them their three-story house would be bombed. The family began to leave when a water tank was struck, but then returned with members of the community, who all came to the house to stand with them, people from all over the neighborhood. The Israeli jets bombed the building with a roof full of people, knowing full well it was full of civilians. Seven people died immediately, including five children under 13 years old. Twenty-five more were injured, and eight-year-old Seraj Abd al-Aal succumbed <http://dci-palestine.org/documents/eight-children-killed-israeli-airstrikes-over-gaza> to his injuries later that evening.

Perhaps the family was trying to appeal to the Israeli regime's humanity, surely they wouldn't bomb the roof full of people. But as we watch families being torn apart around us, it's clear that Israel's actions have nothing to do with humanity.

Other places hit include a clearly-marked media vehicle, killing the independent journalist Hamed Shehab, injuring eight others, a hit on a Red Crescent rescue vehicle and attacks on hospitals which caused evacuations and more injuries.

This latest session of Israeli barbarity is placed firmly in the context of Israel's inhuman seven-year blockade that has cut off the main life-line of goods and people coming in and out of Gaza, resulting in the severe medical and food shortages being reported by all our hospitals and clinics right now.

Cement to rebuild the thousands of homes destroyed by Israeli attacks had been banned and many injured and ill people are still not being allowed to travel abroad to receive urgent medical treatment which has caused the deaths of over 600 sick patients. As more news comes in, as Israeli leaders give promises of moving onto a next stage in brutality, we know there are more horrors yet to come. For this we call on you to not turn your backs on us. We call on you to stand up for justice and humanity and demonstrate and support the courageous men, women and children rooted in the Gaza Strip facing the darkest of times
ahead. We insist on international action:

*** Severance of diplomatic ties with Israel**

*** Trials for war crimes**

*** Immediate international protection of the civilians of Gaza**

We call on you to join the growing international boycott, divestment and sanction campaign to hold this rogue state to account that is proving once again to be so violent and yet so unchallenged. Join the growing critical mass around the world with a commitment to the day when Palestinians do not have to grow up amidst this relentless murder and destruction by the Israeli regime. When we can move freely, when the siege is lifted, the occupation is over and the world's Palestinian refugees are finally granted justice. ACT NOW, before it is too late!

Signed by:
Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions
University Teachers' Association in Palestine
Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (Umbrella for 133 orgs)
General Union of Palestinian Women
Medical Democratic Assembly
General Union of Palestine Workers
General Union for Health Services Workers
General Union for Public Services Workers
General Union for Petrochemical and Gas Workers
General Union for Agricultural Workers
Union of Women's Work Committees
Pal-Cinema (Palestine Cinema Forum)
Youth Herak Movement
Union of Women's Struggle Committees
Union of Synergies-Women Unit
Union of Palestinian Women Committees
Women's Studies Society
Working Woman's Society
Press House
Palestinian Students' Campaign for the Academic Boycott of Israel
Gaza BDS Working Group
One Democratic State Group

Left: *One of four Palestinian youths killed on a beach in Gaza by shelling carried out by an Israeli military vessel.*

BEATINGS

[column written 7/7/14] © 2014 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

The scenes are, unfortunately, all too familiar.

A person is beaten, ruthlessly, relentlessly, by a cop (or a group of cops).

A video is released, and, at least initially, public sympathy flows to the beaten figure on the bottom.

Before long, however, the counter-narrative emerges, the beaten was belligerent, combative, resisted arrest -- or, worst of all, was on drugs! Then, the story goes away. Done!

In California, a 51 year old grandmother is pummeled by a cop, throwing something like a dozen punches in bunches. He is hitting her like she's a man.

In occupied Palestine, a teenager, 15 year old Tariq Abu Khdeir is seen punched, kicked and stomped by black uniformed cops, who then place the child, now beaten into a stupor, into a waiting vehicle.

The grandmother? Police say she was playing in traffic.

The teenager? Cops said he was with boys with knives.

Yeah. So they beat them.

The videos are chilling. They are Rodney King, without the batons. They are Delbert Africa, without the rifle butts.

And they are SOP (standard operating procedure). It's what cops do.

Until people saw actual tapes of police in action, the police and the media were able to play it down.

But this is the age of social media.

And you see what you see.

Pigs in action; beating women and children -- because they can.

--© '14maj

TOTAL VICTORY IS WHEN OUR PEOPLE ARE FREE...

by Etana Shakur and Mecca Shakur

Revolutionary Greetings! Black Power!
All Power to the People!

We would like to thank all of our supporters, ancestors, and God for all the love and strength that was given to us. There is no way we could be walking the streets today if it was not for that righteous POWER backing us up. Now we must all pick up the fight and deliver our people from the hells of racist AmeriKKKa.

As long as the evil forces of white supremacy, capitalism, and U.S imperialism still run rampant on the planet, we can never truly be free. We on the streets are in nothing but minimum security while those of us behind bars in concentration camps are in maximum security! Just like Malcolm X taught us years ago, AmeriKKKa is a big prison for black people! Also, Black Women are the fastest growing prison population in the racist Empire.

We are asking now that you support our other comrades who have fought diligently against the oppressors like General T.A.C.O, Comrade Jihad, and all of the numerous brothers who still face highly-charged political trials for their Revolutionary beliefs and actions for 18 years now!

We must never forgive or forget the brutal murders of OUR people like Oscar Grant, Trayvon Martin, Jordan Davis, and many more. Malcolm X said,"I don't call it violence when it's self-defense, I call it intelligence!" Also, to our house negro political haters and racist enemies who try to slander and smear, harass, jail, or kill us: We will not give up the fight!

Black Men and Women have a right to say "NO" to racist attacks! Black Power! All Power To The People! Black Women Are Panthers Too!

Community support, packed courtrooms and a political defense helped Minister Of Community Programs Etana Shakur (left), Minister Of Information Mecca Shakur (right) beat charges of battery on a cop who tried to assault them. Defend self-defense!

Women are strong leaders and teachers in our organization! This is knowledge taught to us by General T.A.C.O. Don't politically hate, just congratulate! Fred Hampton Sr. said, "You can jail a revolutionary, but you can't jail the revolution! You can kill a revolutionary, but you can't kill the revolution!" Our Shero and example is Assata Shakur, who is in exile in Cuba. Hands Off Assata!

Please share this with every one you know!

Be a Panther at War -- for the hearts& minds of our people!

Black men and women must unite and protect our children from the racist pigs! Defend self-defense! If you want to join and be down or form a prison chapter, email us at blackriders1996@gmail.com, call 323-289-4457 or write to BRLP, PO Box 8297, L.A. CA 90008.

Africa and Africans on the planet will be free!
Black Power to Black Men, Black Power to Black Women, All Power to the People!
We Will Win! Ashe'! Thank You! ... Support Black Riders... Coming To A Hood Near You!
We Stand In Solidarity With Our Sister Akua Agusi!
RBG 4 Life!

The Psychological Effects of Confrontational Politics

Revolutionary greetings; this is your brother and servant. I extend this letter to those who fearlessly pursue liberation. Brothaz, sistaz, comrades, I address you today with great ambition: **THE AMIBITION OF A RYDAH.**

- Lieutenant Tupac Amaru Shakur

As we well know, the success of resistance can be measured by the repression it receives. As should this repression be a motivating factor of greater resistance. Karl Marx's concept of permanent revolution taught us that we must struggle with no compromise despite the political or military dominance of the opposing fascist state.

Historical materialism teaches us to scientifically dissect the tactical maneuvers of past revolutions across the world. Through this process, we can weave out the past mistakes, then draw from them their successes and lessons. Furthermore, we attempt to update and re-implement the tactics renegotiating them to our current conditions.

This can be seen in action through the Black Riders Liberation Party's (BRLP) ideology and practice of confrontational politics. Examples of this practice can be seen in many of our programs such as: The Watch a Pig Program, the Squeeze a Slum Lord Program, and The BRLP Court Watch program, as was demonstrated in the people's most recent victory in the case of our comrades Etana and Mecca Shakur.

The Watch a Pig Program, for example, was developed and adopted from the Black Panther Party's (BPP) Community Alert Patrol. The BPP would exercise their constitutional right to patrol and observe the vicious Oakland PIG department carrying out their duties , while openly brandishing shotguns and M1 carbine rifles to establish that any brutalization of the people would be met with extreme hostility . The armed and disciplined Panther formation utilized this tactic to modify individual PIG behavior , through confronting the PIGs with legal and military means . This meant that the Panthers' armed presence, legal savvy, combined with their sheer audacity, struck terror in the fragile hearts of the racist Oakland PIG department. While this was a small yet important victory, it was not the primary goal of the (community alert patrol) .Which was to teach black people, community self-defense through what Minister of Defense/Dr. Huey P. Newton called Observation and Participation.

Revolution is not an apple that falls when it is ripe. You must make it fall.

-Commander /Dr. Ernesto (Che) Guevara

Observation and participation was a tool used to build the morale of a people who have been whipped, raped, sold, terrorized, and humiliated into submission for 500-plus years, by the racist white power structure. These small victories captured the imagination of the people dwelling in the predominantly black communities of Oakland, and were a vital organizing mechanism.

In the mid 90's the BLACK RIDERS LIBERATION PARTY modified and re-engaged this tactic using disciplined paramilitary formation, advanced communication devices , high definition video cameras, and a wide range of legal weapons including: knives, swords, staffs, expanding batons , stun guns , machetes, bats , canes , and cross bows . Also a plethora of martial sciences including : wing chun, karate, shodokan, judo, aikido, northern shaolin , and traditional muay thai.

As suspected, Dr. Huey's concept of "THE CORRECT HANDLING OF A REVOLUTION" was and still is very effective in communicating our sincerity and concern to the community by risking our lives to assure their safety, as well as modifying individual pig behavior.

INDIVIDUAL PIG BEHAVIORAL MODIFICATIOION or I.P.B.M. is a form of physiological shock therapy. It is a cognitive reaction to a frightening experience. Cognitive is a term used to describe how the brain processes information in order to shape how one perceives things. I.P.B.M. is similar to the corporate media's efforts to implant fear in the minds of the general populace; primarily, to assure compliance and prohibit the people from uprising. We turn this tactic around to mortify the black communities' most immediate military aggressor, the various local pig departments. Our militant posture erases the idea of community compliance from the enemy's mind, forcing him to comply with the laws of the people. This destroys the enemy's ego, demolishes their confidence.

I.P.B.M. is the reconstruction of laws of engagement between the people and the pigs. One of the two behavioral transformations will transpire, as a result, 1.)The pigs are forced into humiliation. 2.) They lash out on the people to discredit the vanguard. But despite the numerous smut campaigns and the heightened repression, the people pressed more than ever to address their conditions. For now, these social, economical, political and military contradictions are more evident.

The ancient commanders of armies who well knew the powerful influence of necessity and how it inspired the soldiers with the most desperate courage, neglected nothing to subject their troop to it.

It is important that we understand this for the true and correct handling of revolution. We as revolutionaries must accept this repression as confirmation that our agitation is truly effective.

Resistance Breeds Repression and Repression Breeds Resistance

Malcolm X stated, "The price of freedom is death!!" If this is true, then we should do nothing short of committing our lives and deaths to the liberation of oppressed people across the world. Those who truly intend on bringing liberation to oppressed peoples have the greatest of responsibilities. This means that in return for the great power the oppressed peoples supply to the vanguard, the vanguard is responsible for proving to them that revolution is a necessity. What better way than to mold oneself into the shield and sword of the people. It is time that we prove to the masses that revolution is not a flame that was blown out in the 1960's- 70's; that revolution does and will exist and expand until imperialism and its fascist military state is driven from the universe. It is our duty as members of humanity to defend the preservation of the universe and the lives with in it. The fascist military state threatens their very existence.

We as a collective of revolutionary communities cannot continue to "whistle pass the grave yard."

--General T.A.C.O. - Wolverine Shakur

This means we cannot continue to pretend that the confrontation between black People and the pigs does not already exist! It does and will whether you participate in it or not. We the BLACK RIDERS LIBERATION PARTY FOR SELF DEFENSE have chosen our path; we are the revolutionaries of our generation. We well understand the sacrifice that is necessary to obtain freedom, and have made the collective decision that, WE WILL FIGHT! WE WILL WIN! BECAUSE WE MUST WIN! All power to the people who don't fear freedom!!

While knowing that we will die someday we think that all the others will die before us and that we will be the last to go. Death seems a long way off. Is this not shallow thinking? It is worthless insofar as death is always at one's door, one should make sufficient effort and act quickly.

-Hagakure (The Book of the Samurai)
Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Bring on the Peace! Bring on the Social Justice!

by the Grassroots Community Radio Coalition

KPFK is facing critical choices now that will affect the survival of the station. For more than a decade, while the dominant element in Pacifica governance and management has pursued an unsuccessful strategy of trying to move into the space left by NPR as it moved to the right, the Grassroots Community Radio Coalition has been at the forefront of the struggle for fresh, relevant, diverse voices on air, and accountability and transparency within Pacifica Foundation Radio. We are building an alliance of people who believe in the dignity and humanity of all of our listeners and communities. We recently put together a majority on the local board; a majority of our majority are people of color, including three of the youngest members of the board, and four women of color, who bring a unique and needed perspective. Together we will build on KPFK's strengths as a community-oriented, free speech, democratic communications medium including a new generation of listeners and volunteers.

KPFK in Crisis

KPFK's news department has been decimated. Once KPFK's crown jewel, broadcasting remotely from local demonstrations and community events, it is now a newsdesk for "Pacifica Nightly News" originating in Berkeley.

KPFK's principal managers are again or still only interim appointees. Due to the actions of the previous Board majority, several of the stations and the national office had to function without financial managers or the ability to generate proper financial and payroll records.

Premiums that have little to do with Pacifica's Mission of fostering creativity, peace, and diverse news sources have become the primary fundraising tool. Fund drives are longer and longer, turning off regular listeners, with less money raised.

KPFK's unpaid programmers, largely responsible for local programming, are under more and more pressure to raise money from their audiences. They volunteer under the threat of being removed if they fail to meet their quotas.

Spanish-language programming, reaching a major under-served market with remarkable breadth and depth in their coverage of community and international issues, is largely ignored and under constant attack by some sectors of station staff and a reactionary minority on the local and national Boards.

Daily programs are being distributed across the Pacifica Foundation Radio network, outside of local station process and at the expense of Southern California news and issues.

Pacifica is in dire financial straits. One station is depending on the dwindling support of the other stations, including KPFK, to keep it afloat, apparently because the previous interim Executive Director, according to a member of her own faction, sat for a year and a half on an offer that could have saved that station $20,000 or more a month, or a total of at least $360,000.

Pacifica's terminated Interim Executive Director had a seven-week sleep-in at the National Office until the court ordered her out. Her rule and ruin damaged and embarrassed the Foundation, and prevented necessary work from getting done.

This crisis is the result of wrong turns and bad choices made by the previous majority on the LSB and PNB.

What We Can Do to Turn Things Around

KPFK's management needs support to be effective, collaborative, and courageous. With collaboration from listeners and governance, paid and unpaid staff, management should oversee developing concrete long-range plans and budgets.

Fundraising should involve listeners, management, staff, and governance, envisioning the goals and values that drive the programming. Implement a strategic, multi-year plan, based on an understanding of what kind of station best serves community needs and the Pacifica mission, that sets the baseline for the staffing, funding, and fundraising. Raise funds on-air without driving off regular listeners for weeks at a time. Raise funds off-air to stabilize station finances. Avoid corporate underwriting,

Programmers need support for improving shows and developing new ones. Train programmers to use the web as an educational tool. We need to become relevant again, with community-oriented voices on the air that new and younger listeners can relate to.

Use outreach over the air and in the communities. Re-establish outreach committees throughout KPFK's disparate regions and diverse communities. Gather data to match programming with the audience.

Use technology. Incorporate the interactivity and the many-to-many ethos of social media to strengthen KPFK's affinity for fresh thinking and fresh ways.

Rebuild KPFK's audience. The Grassroots Community Radio Coalition trusts that together we can rebuild the station we want with a growing, diverse new generation of membership and win back those we have lost.

If you believe that implementing these grassroots objectives and strategies will help restore KPFK and Pacifica, we invite you to join the Grassroots Community Radio Coalition as we stand up against the challenges of war, racism, and austerity.

KPFK 90.7 is fully funded by your contributions. To contribute or volunteer to support our radio station, go to KPFK.org. For a contribution of $25 or more, you will become a voting member and be an active partner in keeping KPFK powered and led by the people.

To find out more about GCRC visit gcrc-socal.org or call 323-540-4272(GCRC).

This article and GCRC are not supported or authorized by Pacifica Foundation Radio or KPFK 90.7 FM.

We the people

by Mutope Duguma (James Crawford)

What we learned this far in our protracted struggle is that We the People are the vanguard. We the People have to demand what we want for ourselves. No government, no power, no authority and no one should be able to trample over the People without the People rising up and saying, "Under no circumstances do We the People accept this in our home."

We the People reject torture of human beings,
We the People reject mass incarceration of our sons and daughters,
We the People reject police brutality,
We the People reject poverty,
We the People reject solitary confinement,
We the People reject Security Threat Groups and Step Down Programs,
We the People reject oppressive prison conditions
In solidarity.
We the People reject violence

Our unity is our strength. If we learn to cultivate our unity, we can begin to reshape this world – back into a world that reflects our humanity – because there is too much pain and suffering in the world today that only our unity will end. We've got to be unapologetic and always be dedicated and serious about the revolutionary change we seek.

Violence only perpetuates more violence inside of the vortex of violence, the senseless taking of lives, like a timeless hour clock that never ends, feeding on the very lives of our families and friends.

An end to all hostilities means peace amongst the oppressed, where our children can focus on school and living their lives peacefully, while they develop into strong young men and women.

An end to all hostilities means peace for the elderly and worrisome minds, where they can take peaceful walks during any time of day or night, sit out on their porches and watch the moon and stars in the sky.

An end to all hostilities means peace where young men and women can go into any neighborhood to socialize with fellow human beings without fear of being attacked or murdered.

An end to all hostilities means peace where all races in the free society can coexist without worrying that their race or class will be a hazard to them.

During our strikes to end all hostilities – July 1 to July 20, 2011; Sept. 26 to Oct. 14, 2011; and July 8 to Sept. 4, 2013 – we men and women got together and said enough already!

An end to all hostilities is solidarity.

Send our brother some love and light: Mutope Duguma, s/n James Crawford, D-05996, PBSP SHU, P.O. Box 7500, Crescent City, CA 95532.

LA-ABCF's Annual Running Down The Walls 5K Run

www.abcf.net/la

Running Down The Walls has been happening in Los Angels since 1999, and is now becoming a mainstay for the Los Angeles Anarchist Black Cross Federation. The last three runs have been at MacArthur Park and have been held in conjunction with Revolutionary Autonomous Communities (RAC) and this year we are honored to continue this wonderful tradition.

On Sunday, September 7th, 2014 at 10 a.m., the Los Angeles Anarchist Black Cross and RAC-LA will host the 5K Run/Walk/Bike around MacArthur Park. This Run is designed to raise much-needed funds for the ABCF Warchest program and for RAC. We are attempting to reach the goal of $3,500 with the run. Funds will be divided between the two programs. Send funds to the LA ABCF,PO Box 11223, Whittier, CA 90603. Checks payable to: Tim Fasnacht.

Today we celebrate our movement

by Todd Ashker, Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa and Arturo Castellanos

This is the third anniversary since we began using peaceful actions collectively to push for an end to the use of longterm solitary confinement. If we look back and remember before July 2011, we prisoners were alone, isolated, not being heard. We wrote newspapers and nothing was printed. We wrote lawmakers and never heard back.

Few people knew how many of us were locked away in windowless cells for 23 hours a day – often more – here in California. Few understood how many others are kept in various forms of isolation here in our state in other SHUs, Ad Seg cells, mental health cells – including women and juveniles.

Almost no one understood California's place as the state that uses solitary confinement the most of anywhere. California is the only state that puts people in longterm endless solitary confinement for mere association, without any violent behavior.

California uses solitary confinement more than anywhere else. And California is the only state that puts people in longterm endless solitary confinement for mere association, without any violent behavior.

Our July 2011 hunger strike and the hunger strike of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay struck a nerve about the mistreatment of prisoners in the United States. We are most grateful that we got your attention, our supporters – activists, lawyers – and the nation and the world.

Twelve thousand prisoners across the state started the September 2011 hunger strike. Thousands lasted for several weeks before we suspended it with promise of talks. Our second hunger strike was short but big.

Our July 2013 hunger strike was historic: 30,000 prisoners in California, by CDCR statistics, refused food at the beginning and we were joined by prisoners across the country. Officially 40 people lasted 60 days. No one was force fed. We know that it was more than 40, but even one person lasting 60 days is historic.

The California, national and world press suddenly focused on the shame of California's prisons. Even Scientific America had an editorial, "Solitary Confinement Is Torture." United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture Juan Mendez spoke out against our endless confinement.

We are so grateful so many of you heard us and joined us and have joined with us. When we began, the saying within our walls was "Parole, snitch or die." Now 69 percent of Secure Housing Unit (SHU) prisoners have been released to general population. Most of the others have been placed in steps supposedly on the way to the general population.

This is an admission, by data of the CDCR itself, that California has misused and overused isolation. There have been changes to visiting rules at Pelican Bay but not in other state SHUs. We have more canteen items, spices for our miserable food and clothing items so that we are not as cold in the winter. These are big victories.

But California has filled the SHU cells up as fast as they have emptied. California still isolates prisoners endlessly without any violent behavior. The conditions of isolation remain torturous. There is still lots to change.

Today we celebrate our movement. We do not rely on the legislature or the courts alone. Only by a strong growing movement of those of us inside and our supporters outside do we have any hope of making all the changes that we need. You keep CDCR's feet to the fire. We are grateful that you stand with us.

Send our brothers some love and light: Todd Ashker, C-58191; Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa (R.N. Dewberry), C-35671; and Arturo Castellanos, C-17275, all at PBSP SHU, P.O. Box 7500, Crescent City CA 95532

Breaking news on July 17th: CA Death Penalty ruled unconstitutional!

Political Prisoner Prof. G. N. Saibaba, Must Be Freed!

Condemn the Abduction of Delhi University Professor by State Security Forces of India!

While the Indian state and its imperialist masters harp about India's overall advances and continue to portray it as "the largest democracy in the world", in the very heart of its capital in Delhi, on May 9, 2014, in broad day light, in full view of CCTV monitored by the local police, the Indian security forces, unashamedly assaulted and abducted Delhi University Professor, Dr GN Saibaba.

After Dr. Saibaba, who suffers from 90% disability and is wheelchair bound, was taken away blindfolded from within the university premises, it took a mysterious call to Vasantha, his partner, from some unknown location in Delhi disclosing it to her that her husband was being taken to Gadchiroli in Maharashtram. Since then, according to the Committee for the Release of Political Prisoners'(CRPP) statement, issued in New Delhi on 10-05-2014, the lawyers in Aheri court in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra have confirmed that Dr. Saibaba has been produced before the magistrate and was sent into judicial custody.

Dr GN Saibaba's is a long standing peoples' rights activist. He is the joint secretary of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (RDF) and one of the central conveners of the "Forum Against War on People" that spearheaded the mobilisation of public opinion in India and abroad against the shameful "Operation Green Hunt" – another clean name amongst others for the Indian state's genocidal war on the tribal people of India – that aims to displace millions of people from this mineral rich area of India and auction off the land and its resources to domestic and international mining corporations to exploit.

The voices of intellectuals, progressive and activist across India opposing this genocidal war on people not only reflects the tremendous mass resistance of the Tribal people such as that in Singur, Nandigram and the Lalgarh peoples' resistance, it also has raised waves of indignation from across the world exposing the true anti-people nature of the Indian state.

The Indian ruling classes engulfed in deep economic and political crisis have been deploying the Indian state and have adopted increasingly more brutal and draconian measure to eliminate their opponents

intensifying repression across the board. It follows that the state and its security forces are directly responsible for war and aggression, wholesale arrests, inhumane treatment in captivity, torture, use of illegal chemicals in extraction of confessions, assassinations and extrajudicial killings.

During the past 5 years alone, the swelling numbers of political prisoners in India and those in captivity, is clear indication of the intensifying oppression and the desperation of the ruling classes in India unable to contain the rising tide of resistance and the struggle of the oppressed people across the country.

Today, tens of thousands including communists, other revolutionaries and progressive people, intellectuals, democratic rights activists, national and religious minorities, and people from all professions, continue to be incarcerated in prisons and interrogation centres across India.

The abduction of Professor GN Saibaba comes a few days after a similar abduction of Jeevan Chandra, the President of RDF in Uttarakhand, that was carried out by security forces on May 5, for having 'connections with the Maoists' and calling for the boycott of the upcoming elections – a typical farce to decide who will represent the fascist state in dealing with the endemic economic, political and social crisis and rising tide of the mass resistance.

According to the CRPP (a convenor of "The International Campaign for the Freedom of All Political Prisoners): "Dr. Saibaba could see this unfolding method in madness of the state and had called for the rallying of all democratic and freedom loving people of the subcontinent resolutely to defeat this war on the people. Every voice that demands justice for Saibaba and his unconditional release will be a step to further strengthen those convictions of ours to stand for what is good for the vast sections of the masses of the people and their struggle to keep alive those dreams for a better world free from all forms of exploitation."

We join our colleagues in the Indian subcontinent, and express our solidarity in struggle for the release of all political prisoners and condemn the reactionary fascist state in India for transforming the whole country into a prison for its oppressed people and national and religious minorities.

On behalf the steering committee of the International Campaign for the Freedom of All Political Prisoners (ICFAPP) we call on all progressive and democratic minded forces across the world to join protests against the abduction of Dr GN Saibaba and demand the his immediate and unconditional release.

Let us join together to resist and struggle for the freedom of all political prisoners everywhere!

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY!
FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!
WE DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF PROF. GN SAIBABA NOW!

The International Campaign for the Freedom of All Political Prisoners – Steering committee
info@icfapp.org 10 May 2014

For further info about revolutionary party he allegedly is a member of:
http://democracyandclasstruggle.blogspot.com/2014/04/the-blazing-trail-of-maoist-revolution.htmlx
and a piece written by Arundhati Roy:
http://www.outlookindia.com/article/Walking-With-The-Comrades/264738

2 Animal Activists Indicted as Terrorists for Freeing Mink

by Will Potter http://www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/aeta-olliff-lang/7900/

Two animal rights activists have been indicted on federal terrorism charges for allegedly releasing 2,000 mink and foxes from fur farms in the Midwest.

Tyler Lang and Kevin Olliff were charged with two counts of violating the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act and committing "animal enterprise terrorism." Olliff is currently in jail in Illinois, where he was sentenced to 30 months for having bolt-cutters in his Prius. Lang was arrested outside a Veggie Grill restaurant in Los Angeles on Thursday July 10. He had arrived to prepare for a fundraiser at the restaurant to benefit the Bunny Alliance, an animal rights group with which he volunteers.

When he saw FBI agents walking up to the restaurant, he said he knew something was wrong. He was on the phone with a friend, who joked that they were there to spy on the animal rights fundraiser. Before he was arrested, he told his friend "call my lawyer."

At Lang's bail hearing at a federal court in L.A., the government asked for a $30,000 bond, which is $20,000 above what pre-trial services had recommended. The prosecutor said Lang was a flight risk because of his "extreme activism. He has plans to travel the country for what he calls non-profit work," the prosecutor said, "but what the government calls violent civil disobedience."

Lang told me he had planned on beginning a tour this weekend with other volunteers, protesting airlines that transport primate for animal experimentation. Lang may not be able to attend the protests, but other volunteers say they are undeterred.

"We know that Tyler would want us to carry on with the Fight or Flight tour," said Amanda Schemkes, a Bunny Alliance volunteer. "It's to further the campaign against the transport of animals to labs, as well as to build and empower grassroots activism in the face of state repression. Our work to help animals continues to be motivated by them rather than stifled by attempts to chill activism."

The indictments came as hundreds of animal rights activists were in LA for the National Animal Rights Conference, where a prominent theme is corporate efforts to label non-violent protest activity as "terrorism."

Releasing animals from fur farms is clearly against the law, but in the history of underground groups like the Animal Liberation Front not a single human being has been harmed. Yet the FBI continues to label animal rights activism "terrorism." New "ag-gag" laws go even further in order to protect agribusiness, criminalizing whistle-blowers, undercover investigators and journalists who expose animal cruelty on factory farms.

First Annual TORCH Antifa Network Conference Chicago IL September 13-14

On September 13th The TORCH antifascist network is holding their first annual conference in Chicago via south side Chicago ARA. This conference has 2 parts; a private portion for those within the TORCH network and a public portion open to all antifascists. The public day is going to be on September 13th and will consist of workshops/speakers followed by an antifascist show. We are inviting any and all antifascists to come out and network, see speakers, see bands, and grab literature. There will be also be tons of free antifascist merchandise (shirts, CD's etc.) for those who come out. This will be a benefit for antifascist prisoners. Below is a detailed schedule with all the necessary info for our public day.
https://www.facebook.com/events/269847203176689/

5pm – Speakers/workshops

This portion of our public day will be donation based. No one turned away for lack of funds.
Speakers and their workshop descriptions:

Matthew N. Lyons from the Three-way-fight blog: Taking the game away from the left
"One of fascism's most dangerous features is its ability to present itself as radical or even revolutionary. From Third Position anti-capitalism to Nazi ecology, from National-Anarchism to the slogan "Women's Power as well as White Power," far rightists have embraced many leftist ideas in distorted form. What are some leading examples of this dynamic today and where do they come from? To what extent is this empty posturing, and to what extent does it reflect real conflict between fascism and the established order? What kind of challenges does it pose for antifascist work?"

More speakers/workshops TBA

7pm -show starts- This portion of the conference is $10

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Can We Stop the US Surveillance State?

by News Dissector Danny Schechter, Mediachannel.org and newsdissector.net. Comments to dissector@mediachannel.org

With the publication of Glenn Greenwald's new book on Edward Snowden and the NSA, the state surveillance issue is back in full force as if it ever went a way.

Purloined formerly top-secret NSA documents are now there for the downloading, even as the calls for truth and privacy buttressed by irrefutable information, has run up against the institutional armor of the surveillance state that has little respect for public opinion or calls for "reform."

Every day, there are new stories showing duplicity in high places and revealing the existence of new tracking technologies and forced and voluntary collusion between the secret agency and its many "partners" in the private sector. PBS Frontline is out with one more expose.

Just as the publication of the Pentagon Papers in 1971 did not end the Vietnam War, the leaks from a world of questionable "intelligence" has only made our Spymasters more determined.

There was four more years of carnage after Daniel Ellsberg dropped the hidden history of our intervention in Vietnam showing how officials knew the truth even as they fed the public a litany of lies to keep a profitable if murderous enterprise going.

The charade was finally ended by the Vietnamese liberation army 39 years ago this month, but the NSA and handsomely financed partners in the self-styled "Intelligence community" will go on and on until someone stops them, and their spying, and that someone is hard to identify given the way the agencies seem to have the goods on the government as well as the rest of us. There is no American liberation army with the clout to shut them down.

I spoke with retired CIA veteran Ray McGovern for a TV series I am producing about how government spying intimidates people in government. He told me: "Everybody is afraid. It's not just the journalists, it's people like Barack Obama, it's people like Diane Feinstein--think about what the NSA has on Diane Feinstein and her husband, who has made billions from Defense, and post office, and all kinds of nice cozy contracts, okay? This goes back to J. Edgar Hoover…"

So far, all the noise and media condemnations have not led to meaningful reforms. or legal restraints on the NSA's electronic octopus. Jameel Jaffer writes in the Guardian about law suits against the NSA that were thrown out of Court:

"What's surprising – even remarkable – is what the government says on the way to its conclusion. It says, in essence, that the Constitution is utterly indifferent to the NSA's large-scale surveillance of Americans' international telephone calls and emails.

"The privacy rights of US persons in international communications are significantly diminished, if not completely eliminated, when those communications have been transmitted to or obtained from non-US persons located outside the United States."

That phrase – "if not completely eliminated" – is unusually revealing. Think of it as the Justice Department's twin to the NSA's "collect it all."

Leave it to the outspoken Chinese Artist Ai Wei Wei who has been spied on and jailed in China to recognize the similarities between pervasive Chinese surveillance and the US imitation of it. He writes,

"Civilization is built on that trust and everyone must fight to defend it, and to protect our vulnerable aspects – our inner feelings, our families. We must not hand over our rights to other people. No state power should be given that kind of trust. Not China. Not the US."

Easier said than done. As we focus on the government role in spying, we seem to be ignoring the commercial aspects of wiretapping and eavesdropping.

American corporations are not just cooperating with the NSA but competing with it. And, not just with Google cars photographing every street in the world.

Just ask Donald Sterling, formerly of the LA Clippers, Owner and jerk as he may be, about what non-government spying did it to him. Who has been prosecuted in that eavesdropping incident?

I spoke to Sam Antar who was wiretapped by the government as part of an investigation into illegal practices by the Crazy Eddy electronics chain years ago and who became a convicted felon. He says that spying has become a profitable business, that is bigger and even more insidious than the NSA.

I told Antar: "You made a point before about how a lot of the spying is not ideological. It's almost like a technology itself. It's almost like a business with no particular political goals, but, you know, it gets funding, it gets support. People are afraid of what they don't know so they justify it."

He responded: "That's entirely correct. My point is, is this: 'It's not a left wing issue. It's not a right wing issue per se.' It goes on everywhere in this world. People want to know about what they don't know about."

"And spying agencies play to that?"

"Yes."

So where are we? We know more than ever, and they know we know it—but that hasn't stopped the government from trying to shut down all debate on the issue. A new executive order this month ordered all government employees not to publicly discuss classified information, even if it appeared in reputable media outlets.

And Congress? Can we expect politicians allegedly providing oversight on overreach to enact effective reforms? Not so far, writes Jameel Jaffer, who tells us to be very, very wary:

"While the current version of the reform bill, the USA Freedom Act, would make some necessary changes to a handful of surveillance laws, it would not narrow the surveillance powers granted by the 2008 law. Nor would it narrow the surveillance powers the NSA derives from the presidential directive that regulates the NSA's surveillance activities outside the United States. Reform is urgently necessary, and years overdue, but this imperfect legislation would leave some of the government's most sweeping authorities intact – and to a large extent it would leave the privacy rights, of Americans and non-Americans alike, to the mercy of the NSA."

And that's where we are, in a sense, where we've always been, on the receiving end of government abuse.

CIA veteran Ray McGovern says let's hope there are more Snowdens in the wings: "Now, if you only have 1 out of 100 or maybe even out of 1,000...technically proficient people like this, that's all you need to do what Edward Snowden did. The governments cannot operate without these very bright people—a lot of these bright people bring consciousness to their expertise, as long as that's the case, and that will continue to be the case, the governments will not be able to get away with this kind of thing."

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Know the Enemy, Know Yourself

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***

The urgent necessity to defeat imperialism, capitalism/colonialism, and all forms of exploitation and oppression has never been greater. The evaporation of Siberian ice, creating huge sinkholes and releasing trapped methane, is only the latest deadly manifestation of the mortal impact on the planetary environment of a profit-driven system of rapacious greed.

Capitalism/ colonialism is a system at war with humanity, with the ecology, with natural law. The empire accumulates monetary wealth in the hands of a few by condemning billions to grinding poverty, suffering and early death. It maintains its grip on power through bloody repression, constant surveillance, incessant propaganda, and a constant war by physical and psychological means on the people and the forces of liberation. It exploits every weakness, every contradiction, every division to disrupt, deviate and dishearten those who struggle for freedom.

We should understand this as a given, yet seemingly year by year, generation after generation, we must learn the lesson again. If we didn't learn the lesson from COINTELPRO, perhaps the latest revelations from Edward Snowden will drive the point home. According to Glenn Greenwald, one of the Snowden NSA files "revealed that the agency has been monitoring the activities of individuals it believes express 'radical' ideas or who have a 'radicalizing' influence on others." This in itself warrants "pervasive surveillance and destructive campaigns to 'exploit vulnerabilities.'" The cited file states: "Exploiting vulnerabilities of character, credibility or both, of the radicalizer and his message could be enhanced by understanding the vehicles he used to disseminate his message to the susceptible pool of people..."

Greenwald shows slides describing two forms of attack, known as on-line covert action: "information ops (influence or disruption)" and "technical disruption", meant to achieve "the 4 D's: Deny / Disrupt / Degrade / Deceive." Greenwald goes on: "Another slide describes the tactics used to 'discredit a target.' These include 'set up a honey trap,' [Cold War tactic of using an attractive woman to lure male targets into compromising situations], 'write a blog purporting to be one of their victims,' and 'email/text their colleagues, neighbors, friends, etc.'" This is intended, another NSA slide explains, to "take 'paranoia' to a whole new level," and use social media for "infiltration work, [to] acquire credibility with online groups, etc., and help with bringing SIGINT [signals intelligence] and Effects [extra-legal disruption, disinformation, etc.] together."

Greenwald says, "'The Art of Deception: Training a New Generation of Online Covert Operations' is devoted to these tactics [drawing] on sociology, psychology, anthropology, neuroscience, and biology... to maximize ... online deception skills. One slide shows how to engage in 'Dissimulation--Hide the Real,' while propagating 'Simulation--Show the False.' ... The document lays out what it calls the 'Disruption Operational Playbook.' This includes 'infiltration... ruse... false flag... and sting operation[s].' It vows a 'full roll-out' of the disruption program by early 2013 as '150+ staff [are] fully trained.'" (Glenn Greenwald, *No Place to Hide*, Henry Holt & Co, 2014; pp. 187-194).

The way to inoculate ourselves against such tactics is by understanding first of all that they represent the Empire's panicky awareness of its own vulnerabilities. They seek to keep their eye on everyone, because everyone is a potential threat, but they reserve their dirty tricks and their death squads for the "influential radicalizers," trying to nip their threat in the bud. As the Palestinians have made clear, and the prison hunger strikers have demonstrated, resistance springs eternally and irrepressibly in the human breast.

We need to learn how to overcome the divisions that plague us, and that the oppressors exploit. White supremacy, male supremacy, racism and sexism are some of the most glaring, but careerism, elitism, ego, ambition, jealousy, and organizational competition are right up there. In decades of anti-imperialist solidarity work, I have tried personally to set such entrapments aside. I have tried to work on a principled, issue-focused basis with anyone willing to work with me to resist the empire, despite their contradictions with each other, and I will strive to continue to do so come what may.

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TURNING THE TIDE

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REST IN PEACE AND POWER!

Michael Brown, killed by Ferguson MO police

Ezell Ford, killed by Los Angeles police

Eric Garner, killed by New York police

Omar Abrego, killed by Los Angeles police

John Crawford, killed by cops in Ohio Walmart

Renisha McBride, killed by white Detroit homeowner

**THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE IS THE FORCE OF LIFE!
SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST RACIST MURDER IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT!**

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Long Hot Summer: The Rise of Police Terrorism in Amerikkka

by E Da Ref, Minister of Public Relations, ***Black Riders Liberation Party***

The Black Riders Liberation Party's **Black Commune Program** Article J States: "We Ride For an immediate end to police brutality. We Ride because we believe we can end police brutality by organizing self-defense groups dedicated to defending our Black community from racist police oppression and brutality. The 2nd amendment to the U.S. constitution gives us a right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all Black people should arm themselves for Self-Defense."

This summer 2014 the people have witnessed the upsurge of fascist pig police terrorism in the belly of the beast of the Amerikkkan Empire. We are in a state of social unrest and upheaval. The people are outraged about these recent back to back incidents of pig police brutality and terror. The rebellious spirits of our ancestors who resisted slavery, escaped and planned insurrections against our racist enemies, are flowing through us on this beautiful Black August.

The pigs are lashing out at the masses and hyper-militarizing their forces. While they fight many wars abroad, they have come to the realization that they must prepare for the war at home. In this communication-information age the people are discovering ways to use the state's weapon of technology against the state, using social media to expose the filth of this fascist empire all across the globe. The US Government fears the inevitable fall of this empire, and they can feel the tide of resistance coming upon the horizon. It's another long hot summer to add to the history books.

On July 17, 2014 in the streets of Staten Island, NY, Eric Garner was brutally choked to death by New York Pig police overseers named Justin Damico & Daniel Pantello. He was supposedly under arrest for being under suspicion of selling untaxed single cigarettes. (Side note: the corporations of the tobacco industry are prime beneficiaries of chattel slavery, that developed their wealth. So who owes who? Who determines how taxes are regulated? We ride for reparations. We're not asking for them, we are taking them!) This shows that the pigs value property more than lives. Any property or possessions does not justify the murder of this brother to leave behind six children without a father. It's unacceptable and the people's justice will be served swiftly. ["Two cops pulled off the streets, Staten Island DA looking into death of dad of six after NYPD cop put him in chokehold during sidewalk takedown," by Annie Karni, Rocco Parascandola, Larry Mcshane New York Daily News July 18, 2014]

In Oakland, CA on August 3, 2014 unarmed Jacorey Calhoun was murdered by an Alameda County Sheriff's deputy pig. He was shot in the head during a pursuit and search. The Oakland pigs said that they tried to stop a vehicle connected to a home invasion robbery but the vehicle left the pigs in the dust and got away. When they spotted the vehicle again Jacorey Calhoun got out of the car and ran into a neighbor's yard. As soon as the pig spotted him, the pig shot him. However, the pig police have not disclosed why the deputy opened fire. [ktvunews.com SF Bay Area. "Attorney: Man shot by sheriff's deputy was unarmed," August 4, 2014.]

On August 9, 2014 in Ferguson, MO (a suburb outside St. Louis) an unarmed 18-year-old Black college student by the name of Mike Brown was approached by the Ferguson Pigs with their guns drawn. Mike Brown raised his hands and was shot six times, murdered in cold blood and left dead in the middle of the street by a pig named Darren Wilson. The pigs later said he was a suspect in a theft committed minutes before the shooting, but the interaction between the pig Darren Wilson and Mike Brown was unrelated to the robbery. The pigs continue to switch up their stories as rebellion rises throughout the city. Hacktivist organizations are leaking sensitive information on the pigs, forcing them to answer the questions of the people and get their story straight. They continue to bury themselves in a deceitful hole, telling one lie to cover the other lie. The National Guard has been called in to quell the uprising but they are failing, while the power of the people is prevailing. ["Ferguson officer in fatal shooting identified, unarmed teen suspected of robbery," the Press-Democrat, Associated Press, August 17, 2014, David Lieb] ["Autopsy shows Michael Brown was struck at least 6 times," NY Times, August 17, 2014, by Frances Robles; Julie Bosman] ["Police Report in the Michael Brown case," LA Times, August 15, 2014.]

In Los Angeles, CA a black man named Ezell Ford shot in the back and killed by two LA pigs while lying flat on the ground complying with them, on August 11, 2014. When the mother came out of the house in concern, the pigs approached her with their Billy clubs out. The pigs were rewarded with a vacation, Paid Administrative leave. LAPD pig chief Charlie buster ass Beck had little to say with no true explanation. Seems like just another "Justifiable homicide" business as usual. [KTLA, August 12, 2014, LA Times]

Following these tragic, treacherous, tyrannical, terrorist attacks on our community by the fascist pigs there has been a lot of public outcry in opposition to the police state. The temperature is hot, tempers are flaring, and the tension is thick. There have been many protests, rallies, demonstration, spontaneous rebellions/riots and looting. These actions all have their place in revolution. But that alone is not revolution.

If the masses continue to be misled to believe that this is what revolution is all about, then it falls under the category of counter-revolution. If these mobilizations have no organization to back it up, then it's contra-positive mobilization, simply meaning it moves us backwards not forward. When these tragedies happen and it gets major press and media coverage, that's when all the political opportunists come in and pull out the picket signs and start marching. Then once the hype is over with, then the flame of resistance goes out, until the next tragedy happens.

The Black Riders Liberation Party, new generation Black Panthers for self-defense leader and chief theoretician General T.A.C.O (Taking All Capitalists Out) has this to say about the recent incidents of pig police terrorism:

"General T.A.C.O. calls on All Black People to patrol the police with the Watch-A-Pig program- The pigs have murdered Ezell Ford in L.A, Michael Brown in Ferguson, and Eric Garner in NY-BLACK RIDERS-NEW GENERATION BLACK PANTHER PARTY FOR SELF-DEFENSE! We need a nationwide defense force: From L.A, to St. Louis, to NY- RISE UP- WE MUST DEFEND OURSELVES...Out of frustration and hopelessness, the Black Riders was formed by young Black people who have reached the point of no return. We refuse to be manipulated by the racist U.S. government and its ruling elite any longer into set-tripping over blue and red or any "hood" or "turf" in ameriKKKa. We no longer endorse patience and turning the other cheek.

"We assert the right of self-defense by whatever means necessary, and reserve the right of maximum retaliation against our racist oppressors, no matter what the odds against us are. From here on in, if we must die anyway, we will die fighting back and we will not die alone! We intend to see that our racist oppressors also get a taste of death! We will protect the Black Community with our minds, bodies, and souls. BLACK POWER! All Power to the People! Black Riders Number One Rule, IT IS BETTER TO DIE ON YOUR FEET THAN TO LIVE ON YOUR KNEES! IF YOU DON'T STAND FOR SOMETHING YOU'LL FALL FOR ANYTHING!

"HERE'S WHAT WE DO TO UPLIFT THE BLACK COMMUNITY...We patrol the racist police with our Watch-A-Pig program, armed with video cameras and other legal weapons. We also develop survival programs because Black People are facing extermination and genocide. Some of these programs are the George Jackson Freedom School for Black Children, our Educate to Liberate Classes for Black Adults, Free Food programs for the homeless, and many, many more. Overall we push Revolution to get free from the oppressive conditions in the hood that comes from white supremacy and capitalism. Also we develop gang truces between many hoods like the Bloods and Crips in L.A to stop Black on Black violence. We push hard for Black unity! **BLACK POWER! ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!**"

This reign of pig police terror is strategic and systematic. So if we don't develop strategies to overthrow the system as a whole, and stop settling for concessions and reform, we are heading for self-destruction. We are calling out to the people. The Black Riders Liberation Party has practical alternatives to provide for the people. We must set up programs for survival pending revolution! We must patrol our communities! We must arm ourselves for self-defense and prepare for armed struggle! The people can, will and are fighting back. There are recent actions of insurrection taking place right here in Amerikkka amongst all of this turmoil that shows us that the people are fighting back and the enemy is not untouchable, immortal or indestructible.

In New Jersey on July 12, 2014, Lawrence Campbell walked into a local drug store armed with a knife. He disarmed the security guard and took his gun. He waited for the pigs to come. Upon their arrival he corrected a rookie pig named Melvin Santiago by shooting him between the eyes before being shot by the pigs. He went out in a blaze of honorary glory. [foxnews.com "New Jersey police officer shot, killed on robbery call," via Associated Press June 13. 2014]

On August 12, 2014 in South New Jersey, an unidentified gunmen shot up the West Deptford Township pig station. He drove around the station one time for reconnaissance, the second time around he let off a round into the window of the deputy chief's office and pumped five rounds into the emergency exit door with a 40 caliber handgun. The gunmen got away smoothly. Unfortunately, no pigs were injured but it sent a strong message. The power and prestige of the pigs is slowly fading away. [nydailynews.com, "New Jersey police station target in a drive-by" by Nichole Hensley]

In 2012, the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement came up with some stats through research that every 28 hours a Black man, woman, or child is murdered by the police, security guards and white supremacist vigilantes. A total of 313 Black people were killed by extra-judicial forces in the year of 2012. [MXGM, "Operation Ghetto Storm"]

Reactionary Right-wing media sources have come up with stats from research for a counter propaganda attack to: 1) play victim and pump fear, to maintain federal and state funding and hyper-militarization of the pig police forces across Amerikkka; and 2) to justify their reign of terror against the people. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund reports that in 2013, 100 pigs were slain in the line of duty averaging to a pig slain every 58 hours.[Nationalreview.com "Every 58 hrs a cop

is killed" August 15, 2014, Michelle Malkin]

This propaganda attack fails because the numbers show the contradiction. Every 58 hours a pig gets killed but every 28 hours a black person is killed by a pig. If the police are really serving and protecting community, why are more people dying at the hands of officers then the other way around? How is it that the people that the police are supposed to protect and serve, life is on the line more than the officers who are supposed to do the protecting and serving?

This propaganda will backfire on them because it really just shows that resistance is possible, and that the pigs bleed too. It also proves that the pigs don't really serve and protect the interests of the people. O.G Black Panther Co-Founder Huey P. Newton teaches us that the true purpose of the police in this capitalist society is to protect property, and since black people rarely own property they couldn't possibly be patrolling our community to protect us. The Pigs are occupying forces in our community. They patrol our community in the same manner the Israeli commandos patrol and occupy Palestine.

We must come to an understanding that reactionary forces of fascism (the pigs) are only the most direct enemy. It is the U.S Government politicians that create these laws that criminalize us, dehumanize us, and militarize the pigs. It is the elite ruling class and big businessmen (known as the 1%) who control these politicians and finance their election, so the politicians dedicate their loyalty to them instead of to the masses of people who voted them into office. It is the Elite ruling class that invests in privatized prisons which causes the demand for prison slave labor that the pig's quota for mass incarcerations is based on.

The Black Riders Liberation Party Ride for total liberation! We Ride for self-determination! We Ride to wipe imperialism completely off the face of universe! We demand justice! Justice will not be served by incarceration of pigs that have stolen the lives of our people. Justice will not be served by a pig getting fired from the force only to get hired in another city, county or state. Justice will not be served by a change in the laws. Justice for a stolen life can only be served in bloodshed! Marcus Garvey teaches us that, "Power is the only argument that satisfies man." We must tap into the power we have to seize state power. Mao Tse-Tung says, "Political power comes out the barrel of a gun." We must exercise our God-given and 2nd amendment constitutional right to bear arms to enforce people's law for people's justice!

BLACK POWER! ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

The Meaning Of Ferguson

[col. writ. 8/31/14] © 2014 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Before recent days, who among us had ever heard of Ferguson, Missouri?

Because of what happened there, the brief but intense experience of state repression, its name will be transmitted by millions of Black mouths to millions of Black ears, and it will become a watchword for resistance, like Watts, like Newark, Harlem and L.A.

But Ferguson wasn't 60 years ago - it's today.

And for young Blacks from Ferguson and beyond, it was a stark, vivid history lesson -- and also a reality lesson.
When they dared protest the state street murder of one of their own, the government responded with the tools and weapons of war. They assaulted them with gas. They attacked them as if Ferguson was Fallujah, in Iraq.
The police attacked them as if they were an occupying army from another country; for that, in fact, is what they were.

And these young folks learned viscerally, face to face, what the White Nation thought of them, their claimed constitutional rights, their so-called freedoms - and their lives. They learned the wages of Black protest. Repression, repression and more repression.
They also learned the limits of their so-called 'leaders', who called for 'peace' and 'calm', while armed troops trained submachine guns and sniper rifles on unarmed men, women and children.

Russian revolutionary leader, V.I. Lenin once said, "There are decades when nothing happens; there are weeks when decades happen."

For the youth, excluded from the American economy by inferior, substandard education; targeted by the malevolence of the fake drug war and mass incarceration; stopped and frisked for Walking While Black, were given front-row seats to the national security state at Ferguson after a friend was murdered by police in their streets.

Ferguson may prove a wake-up call. A call for youth to build social, radical, revolutionary movements for change.

The US: Architect of Disaster

by Mumia Abu-Jamal © 2014 by MAJ

It is fascinating to watch US presidents as they call names and promise destruction. Especially so soon after the flood of disasters that have been waged throughout the Middle East.

Iraq is a social, economic, environmental and spiritual basket base. Libya is little better. Both are horrific examples of US interventions, that have plunged both societies into deadly hell-scapes -- places of religious strife, kidnappings, broken institutions, and rape.

For the US, and its so-called allies, are good at destruction of governments. Reconstruction? Not so much.

Now, the American Way lumbers into Syria, ostensibly to weaken ISIS, lately called the Islamic State. As in Iraq and later, Libya, the US and its ignoble allies are in contempt of the people, who are invariably referred to coldly as "collateral damage." The Arab so-called allies cover for the imperialists, who are actually collaborators with Western foreigners.

All the rap about "training armies?" If the US couldn't do it in 12 years, a few months are simply laughable. This means that the US and Western military efforts will continue indefinitely for months, for years, perhaps.

And to what end? Democracy? An end to terrorism? Hardly. For one thing, imagine the various and sundry members of the so-called coalition. Should it surprise us that, with the exception of France, there's hardly a democracy among them?

This war, like the Iraq war before it, promised Heaven, but delivered Hell. It was, and is, a disaster, that promises more suffering for the Arabs, who have the immense misfortune of being born in lands where lakes of oil bubble beneath them.

From imprisoned nation, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.
The commentaries are recorded by Noelle Hanrahan of Prison Radio.
http://www.prisonradio.org/

Planning Meeting for May 13, 2015 MOVE Activities

by Ramona Africa
onamovellja@gmail.com

ONA MOVE, Everybody. The first planning meeting for the May 13, 2015 activities will be on Oct. 8, 6:30-8:30, at Abiding Truth Ministries Church, located at 57th and Washington Ave. (one block north of Baltimore Ave. in Philadelphia, PA. I sincerely hope that as many of you as possible can attend.

At the request of our dear brother, Prof. Tony Monteiro, and the cooperation of Rev. Greene at Abiding Truth Ministries Church, the meeting was postponed from Oct. 1. There is a very important event happening on Wednesday, Oct. 1st. concerning W.E.B. DuBois at Temple University, that Temple students have organized. These are students who support Dr. Monteiro in his bid for reinstatement. Some of you may know that Dr. Monteiro organized a DuBois conference for years while he taught at Temple and these students are carrying on the tradition.

The plan is for people to select a committee that they want to work with. The committees will decide when and where to meet or conference call to do their work. Then we will meet at Abiding Truth once a month until May 2015. That is when each committee can report back and we can see where we're at and what we need to focus on.

From November forward our meetings will be on the FIRST Wednesday of every month and I will send out reminder emails.

Thanks so much for your anticipated cooperation---Ramona

30th Anniversary of Mass Murder in Philadelphia

Free Tayvon Grayson!

by the African Peoples Socialist Party (APSP)

ORLANDO, FL—On Tuesday, July 19, 2014, 23-year-old Tavon Grayson was gunned down in a downtown Orlando, Florida parking lot. Five Orlando cops have been implicated in the near-fatal shooting of Grayson who was hit a total of eight times, including once in the head.

So despite being the home of the make-believe, fantasy Disney World, the reality for African people in the city of Orlando, Florida is no different from that of Africans in Ferguson, Missouri where the white police murdered Mike Brown.

On that warm summer night, all Tavon set out to do was have a little fun with his friends at the downtown Beechum Night Club. Instead, when attempting to leave the club, police fired their weapons while he was inside his car and continued to fire at him once they dragged him from the vehicle.

The police are using the usual excuse: they were in fear of their life. They say Tavon was trying to run over them, even as the car was riddled with bullets from both sides and the rear.

Since that fateful July 19 night, Tavon spent four weeks in the Orange County Hospital, much of it spent in intensive care as surgeries were needed for the eight gunshot wounds.

After doing a patch-up medical job on Tavon, they transferred him to the infirmary at the local jail where medical treatment is near non-existent.

Although Tavon can't use the restroom by himself, they expect him to clean and care for his wounds with a bottle of medicated soap furnished by the jail.

Now, three months since the shooting, Tavon lies gravely ill in a jailhouse infirmary bed with no bail.

And they are using an obscure Florida law called the "Anti-Murder Act" to hold Tavon without bond.They also caim he violated his probation for being arrested.

The "Anti-Murder Act" is based on a theory that the State is preventing a murder by keeping a "suspect" locked up if they have ben accused of violent offense.

In other words, the State cannot justify shooting Tavon without accusing him of a crime. Guilt or innocense has nothing to do with it. That is why there are more than a million young African men in U.S. prisons today.

Ordinarily, Tavon would have been just another African victim of police violence while they prepare a prison cell for him even though he has committed no crime.

But what is different now, is that magnificent display of courage and struggle by African people in Ferguson, Missouri.

A struggle and fight back against the same colonial army, called the police, that is responsible for the near murder, and now imprisonment of Tavon Grayson.

Ferguson's lesson is that if we struggle and win in Ferguson then we can win in Orlando.

Tayvon Grayson, shot 8 times by cops, in custody

That is why Tavon's mother, Latanya Magwood has contacted the African People's Socialist Party and as a result has organized the Committee to Free and Defend Tavon Grayson.

At present, the Committee is focussed on Tavon's immediate unconditional release to address his dire medical condition.

On Monday, September 29, the Committee to Free and Defend Tavon Grayson called a demonstration in front of the Orange County Courthouse where Tavon will be attending a bail hearing at 8:00 am at 425 N. Orange Ave., Orlando, Florida.

The Committee has also developed goals and demands.

Free Tavon! Call Judge Robert Evans of Orange County Court at 407-836-2336 and demand Tavon's immediate release.

We demand the police report! We are asking our supports to call into the Orlando Police Department at 407-836-3400 and demand the report on the attempted murder of Tavon Grayson.

Jail the Shooter Cops! Call Orange County Distrct Attorney at 407-836-2400 and demand that the 5 cops involved in the shooting of Tavon Grayson be immediately arrested and charged with attempted murder and official oppression.

For more information, contact the African People's Socialist Party 727-821-6620 or info@apspuhuru.org.

What Is To Be Undone

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror*** (ARA-LA/PART)

Timed to occur just before the UN opened a Global Climate Summit, the Peoples' Climate March in New York drew about 400,000 people into the streets, and was paralleled with dozens of similar rallies around the world. Here in Los Angeles, the group *Converging Storms* called a "Building Blocks Against Climate Change" mobilization in which dozens of community groups took street corners or intersections along a miles-long stretch of Wilshire Blvd. west from Echo Park. A great diversity of groups, many committed to environmental justice and indigenous rights, participated locally, in NYC and around the world. The climate rallies were the largest simultaneous global protests since the demonstrations against the invasion of Iraq by George W. Bush.

Roughly simultaneously, the US launched attacks from the air on Iraq and Syria, targeting the so-called Islamic State and other jihadist groups (while simultaneously arming still other Syrian rebels). The coincidence, and the absence of a militant, demonstrative peace movement, were a pointed reminder that the intransigence of the Empire in the face of public opinion, coupled with the willful blindness and illusion of progressive elements in the US population (that cast Barack Obama as a 'peace' candidate and muted its opposition to war and surveillance after his election), had blunted and dissipated many other mass mobilizations. The world-wide demand to 'bring the troops home' after World War II, the ban-the-bomb, anti-nuclear movement at the height of the Cold War, the movements for civil rights, women's rights, and gay rights of the '60s and '70s, the earlier round of the environmental movement, all settled for at best partial 'victories' that were eroded and reversed by a reactionary backlash.

Despite the occasional bit of good news, like the reversal in ozone depletion recently recorded, the environment is in far worse shape than it was. Despite the passage of various civil rights laws and efforts at affirmative action, institutionalized and internalized racism grips the police, the schools, the lending policies of banks, the surveillance policies of retail outlets, the entertainment formulas of films, TV and the music industry, and the hiring policies of businesses. Despite decades of prisoner rights and even prison abolition organizing, the US still has the highest incarceration rates in the world, and the number of people locked up in prisons and jails started climbing again last year after a brief down-tick. Despite protest after protest at police killings, the epidemic of police terror against Black and Brown people has reached stunning proportions, and the militarization of police continues unabated.

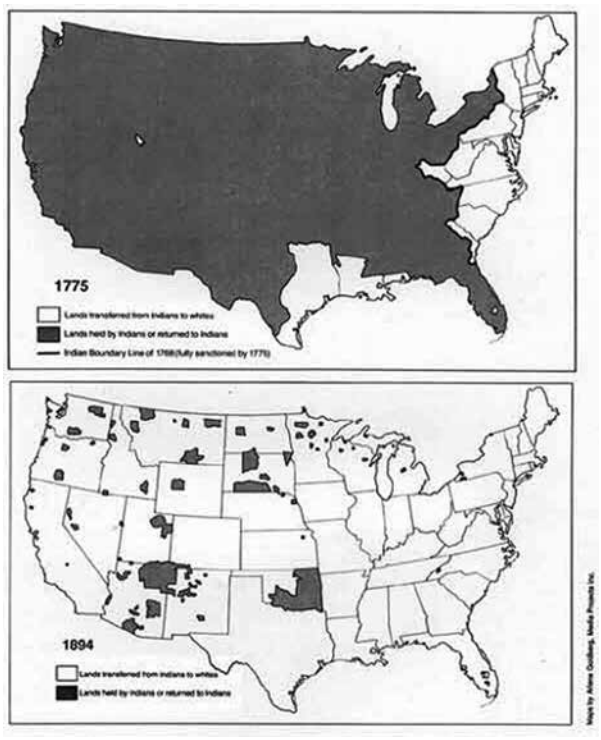
These losses are not recounted to discourage or dismay those who are protesting climate change in NY or LA, Sydney or Nepal, nor those taking the streets against police murders in Ferguson or Los Angeles. But it is to ask ourselves, **what will it take to win?**

Something more than the failed strategies and theories and half-measures of the past. We must break the mental, emotional and material bonds that prevent us from undertaking the all-or-nothing struggle it's going to take. We must undo our identification with and participation in the system that is destroying the planet. The price of those failures, in continued environmental devastation, in the mass murders of imperialist war, in the lives stolen by prisons and police, are on our hands. The vacuum left by the absence of a fighting left has allowed the forces of the state and the right to ride roughshod over the people and the planet. Eighty some years ago, anarchists, socialists and communists were fighting fascism in Spain, and volunteers from around the world made their way to Spain under the slogan, ***No Pasaran!*** Today instead, we find foreign fighters traveling to Iraq and Syria to join the reactionary ranks of ISIS.

A wing of the climate change movement has raised the instructive slogan, "***System Change, Not Climate Change***." This speaks to the fact that there is a system in operation now, a system that connects the fossil-fuel economy, the US military aggression in Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Afghanistan, the police murders in the ghettoes and barrios, the mass incarceration of millions, the routine surveillance of all electronic communication, and the growing inequality of income and wealth. It's a system that explains how health care reform became a hand-out to the insurance companies, how education reform became a profit center for corporations, how immigration reform became a blueprint for militarization of the border and record deportations, how economic reform became a play-book for union-busting, de-industrialization, and the creation of a super-exploited 'global supply chain.'

That death-dealing system is capitalism/colonialism. Any reform we win within that system just becomes a mechanism for rationalizing and heightening the regime of exploitation on which it depends. Asking this system to regulate itself makes as much sense as asking the police to police themselves.

Stolen Land: Property is Theft



Some say this is carping in the face of an overwhelming threat to all of humanity and to the planetary eco-system posed by even a slight further increase in 'green-house gas' emissions and resultant temperature increases. But all the planning this system is engaged in, economically and militarily, is to "win" control over the transformed biosphere. They are making plans for naval operations and resource extraction after the north polar ice cap is gone. They are crafting scenarios for resource wars over water and grain. They are designing and testing mechanisms for population control and surveillance, for example on the Palestinians, that would put Big Brother to shame.

What we need to understand is the fundamental contradiction that still drives this system, and drives it crazy. It is wedded to eternal growth. It requires the participation of billions, as both consumers and producers, upon whom it is therefore dependent. Yet its growth and profit rest on the exploitation of those billions, and its power depends on their oppression and subjugation. That means the system is riven with contradictions within and without. Every economic stratagem it devises only increases the crushing weight of debt, the expense of absorbing vast amounts of human productivity and creativity into machines and technology, and, as we see with global warming, its attempts to externalize costs to sustain profits are destroying the very seedbed of human existence.

Unfortunately, the oppressed and exploited are still not as clear as the rulers are about the irreconcilable nature of those contradictions. We cannot win the battle over climate change, over police killings, over Big Brother surveillance, over privatization of public education and destruction of public employee union, until we realize we have an implacable **enemy**, not just bad ideas, bad policies, bad individuals, but a class of exploiters and colonizers that run that system to their own advantage. To save the planet, to save the children, to save the cultures and peoples slated for genocide, we must dispossess that class of its stolen wealth and power, we must expropriate the expropriators.

What do we need to understand, and to act on, in order to win?

First of all, like it or not, we are in a war for our survival. Daniel Ellsberg had the insight, during the Indochina wars, that the US was not **on** the wrong side, it **was** the wrong side. Imperialism does not just wage war, or need war, it **is** war. The private profit system operates as a constant state of war against the peoples and lands it colonizes; it is at war with the very laws of nature and the ecological systems of mutual benefit and replenishment that sustain life as we know it. We must prepare ourselves to fight, or we have lost and are lost.

Second, it is us or them. The exploiters need the exploited; the oppressors need the oppressed; the bosses need the workers; the wardens and guards need the prisoners. But humanity and the natural world we are part of do not need exploiters or oppressors, prisons or police. The climate crisis among many others makes clear that our survival depends on their social, economic and political elimination, not as individuals, but as a class.

Third, we must be in conscious, self-critical solidarity, to overcome victimhood, privilege, oppression and exploitation. Our unity is our strength, because the tried and true strategy of the oppressors and exploiters, the colonizers and imperialists, is divide and conquer. We must overcome the divisions created by capitalism, racism, sexism, or nationalism, while respecting the self-determination and rights of all peoples. We must devise forms of organization and alliances based on such principles that can also operate with flexibility and intensity, whatever form of struggle is required of us.

In that way, we recognize the inter-connectedness of the struggles against climate change, against police murders, against mass incarceration and isolation-torture in the prisons, against deportation, against imperial war and the militarization of everyday life, against police spying and the surveillance/national-security state, against genetic engineering and terminator seeds, against foreclosures and evictions, against misogyny. So wherever we choose to stand our ground and fight our battles, we do so in conscious strategic unity with all the exploited and oppressed, and against all the exploiters and oppressors and the totality of their system, which must be uprooted once and for all in the name of humanity and survival of the biosphere.

100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of Turning the Tide

Over its 26+ year publishing history, ***TTT*** has been published in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we print four 8-page issues a year. Now, to restore bi-monthly publication, we have launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed **"100X100."**

We are looking for one hundred people who will donate $100 a year to make it possible for ***TTT*** to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing nearly 2000 copies of each issue into the prisons. We have set up a website for this campaign, http://gofundme.com/eugzgg.

Turning the Tide doesn't print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps; their contribution more often comes by writing articles, letters and poems or sending in drawings. Often, they pass the copy of ***TTT*** that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners who want to get their own copies and use the paper for study and discussion.

But none of that can happen without you. If you'd like to see ***Turning the Tide*** more frequently, if you want to contribute to breaking down the walls of isolation and separation imposed by the prison system, please contribute. If you can't manage $100 all at once, you could donate $10 a month. But any donation you make can help. Postage costs for a single issue of TTT are almost $1000 and climbing. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, Twitter followers, and email contacts.

If the campaign is successful, we will put out a fifth issue of ***TTT*** in 2014, and then begin publishing every other month in 2015. Postage is our biggest expense. Nobody gets paid at ***TTT.*** But the Postal Service is not so generous. We have a handful of people who are sustainers, making a monthly donation, a larger number of people who subscribe once a year or so.

The future of ***Turning the Tide*** is in your hands. Now, while you're thinking about it, go to:

http://gofundme.com/eugzgg

and donate. Then share it with your contacts. With your help, ***Turning the Tide*** can step up to "urgency of now" -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible.

If you think ***TTT*** is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to **Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.**

Come to Ferguson, MO - October 10-13

by the Organization for Black Struggle

Join the #HandsUp Mass Mobilization in Ferguson October 10th-13th

We are in a movement moment.
What began as a local call for Justice for Mike Brown has grown into a nationwide shout for justice. Mike Brown falls in a long line of others killed as a result of systemic racial bias and violence against black and brown communities. John Crawford, III, Ezel Ford, Eric Garner, Oscar Grant, Amadou Diallo, Marilyn Banks and countless others named and unnamed have been killed through the excessive use of force by law enforcement.

As droves of people, many of them young and black, took to the streets of Ferguson in resistance and to demand justice for Mike Brown, thousands of others joined in solidarity around the country. The interconnectedness of our struggles became clear. Police brutality and excessive use of force against young people of color, militarized policing, poverty, economic inequality, and the absence of real participatory democracy deeply harm our communities from Dayton, OH to Los Angeles, CA.

The uprisings in Ferguson and mobilizations around the country represent a desire by community members to claim their right to self-determination, energy to strengthen a movement for racial justice, and end violence against black and brown communities.

We are calling for a convergence in Ferguson, MO from October 10th – 13th to continue the fight for justice for Mike Brown and to spark the broader movement for racial justice and sow transformative seeds for others to carry back home. There is an urgency in this moment to strengthen the mobilizing, organizing, and resistance happening across the country to build a movement.

If you want to join in this national fight, sign-up to organize locally and come to Ferguson October 10 – 13.

Our Values:

This mobilization is centered around the following key values:
There is a prevailing need to empower individuals and communities with the knowledge and resources they need to transform the world around them.

Constant struggle and vigilance is necessary to protect our rights and achieve the justice that we seek

Our shared oppressions cannot be reduced to the personal; our issues are systemic, so the solutions should be as well:

While racism can manifest itself personally all too often, racism is also institutionalized and structural. The sooner we can see racism as structural, the sooner we can try to break the cycle.

Our current economic system degrades people of color and low-income people — justice must address the economic inequality built into the capitalist system

We believe that movements are based in local struggles; sometimes, like here in Ferguson, our movements find a crack where we must all push together. We are fighting for Justice for Mike Brown, for many others murdered by the police and for people of color as a whole.

What to Expect:

Thousands of leaders from around the country will arrive in Ferguson on October 9th – 10th. Hands Up United will hold direct action trainings and identify leaders for demonstrations planned for October 11th and October 13th.

On Saturday, October 11, there will be a large mobilization march. We expect very large numbers for this march and your participation is key to making this happen.

On Oct .12, we will have faith meetings and final preparations for distributed actions which will take place on Monday, Oct. 13.

On Mon., Oct. 13 we will conduct civil disobedience and major demonstrations at significant targets.

If you can't come for the entire weekend, we hope that you come on Saturday for the largest Justice for Mike Brown march in Ferguson, MO.

http://obs-onthemove.org/#sthash.lCe3C0Xh.dpuf

1401 Rowan Avenue St.Louis, MO 63112
Contact Phone: (314) 367-5959
Contact Email: obs_onthemove@yahoo.com
See more at: http://obs-onthemove.org/contact-obs/#sthash.Cy8DFCMo.dpuf

On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide

You can find archives of ***Turning the Tide*** at www.antiracist.org that go back more than seven years, plus back issues of the ***Black Rider African Intercommunal News Service***. In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as facebook.com/tideturning, and facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity. You can follow @ara_losangeles on Twitter, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at ara-la.tumblr.com.

Contact Info for the Black Riders

You can reach the Black Riders Liberation Party, new generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense at PO Box 8297, Los Angeles CA 90008, blackriders1996@gmail.com or by calling 602-842-2757 (BRLP), or on facebook, Black-Riders-Liberation-Party. The BRLP is building a nation-wide prison chapter, and has been setting up new chapters rapidly around the US. A website is in development.

From Spain to the Ukraine

by the Spanish Committee to Support the Anti-fascist Ukraine

http://comitedeapoyoalaucraniaantifascista.wordpress.com/2014/08/20/comunicado-de-la-brigada-internacional-carlos-palomino/

Communiqué of the International Brigade Carlos Palomino

To all the anti-fascist world. To the working class, the exploited and dispossessed everywhere. To all the proud warriors of the rebel dignity To all good-hearted people. To those who can't unafford to get discouraged.

Comrades ... ..The time has come. We spent months watching the suffering of the inhabitants of Donbass, in what was the eastern Ukraine. Neo-Nazis have taken power, fed, trained, organized and led by USA, by the governments of Europe and NATO in their dark interests.

While Obama smiles like a clown, and Europe sells us the neo-Nazis in Kiev as "honorable protestors," torture, rape, killings and bombings, hover over all who are an obstacle to their plans. Anti-fascists, communists, anarchists and Russian speakers in Ukraine are being savagely murdered. Meanwhile, the official media of the world, partners in crime, hide, lie, distort and manipulate keep us ignoarant of what the "democracies" of the West are doing.

They tell us they are separatist terrorists, but do not teach us the images of children dismembered by indiscriminate bombing of civilians at the hands of the "democrats" of Kiev advised by American military experts. Ukraine suffers from cancer of fascism extending itself across it with all that entails. People who still have a good heart, are up in arms, forming the People's Self Defense Militias, formed by workers, miners, and all kinds of laborers ... men and women who do not want to continue seeing their homes destroyed or their sons broken.

They have declared the Popular Workers Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk, the Novorrosia federation, and its intent is clear, they will not give up against the fascists, and will only leave Donbass feet first. Well, we, the antifascists of the Spanish state, powerless as we've seen our comrades burned alive in Odessa, we have observed crying with rage as babies perished under the shrapnel of bombs, we've seen again waving flag swastika destroying everything in its path ... we decided that we will **NOT** go on just WATCHING.

Nazis openly on the march in Ukraine took part in the Western-backed coup that overthrew the elected president and is threatening to engulf the world in Cold War II or a hot war between NATO and Russia.

We are honored to announce that the International Brigades HAVE returned. Nearly 80 years ago, when the whole bourgeois world left us on our own, against Franco, Hitler and Mussolini, more than 50,000 workers from over 54 different nations left everything to come to fight and die in our land, for our freedom, for our future and ... now is time that history puts us at this height. Seven brigades were formed in Spain in 36 ... here are the first steps of the eighth brigade, in a new century with the same essence of social struggle.

We call on everyone of you who feel the blood boil with rage demanding justice in the depths of your hearts, for you to rise there where you are and choose us to fight alongside the indomitable Donbass.Come fight with us! Let's shout in the face of imperialism that our comrades ARE NOT ALONE! They need us, they need fighters, medical needs, drivers, money, supplies ...

Across Europe,a far-right resurgence is fueled as always by imperialism and soon will knock on the door of your house. We can not wait until the concentration camps are built. It's time to stand up against all exploiters worldwide. In Madrid, Donetsk, Berlin, Rome and Paris.

It is time for you to shout to the world that we are not tired, let alone exhausted, we will fight and we will not let them crush us... because we have a new world in our hearts, and that world is growing this minute. We may not get back to see our families, our friends ... but if we do not stop fascism, there will be no future for anyone.

Brother proletarians it is now or never! And to conclude this message, we want to send a message to all fascist, neo-Nazis and the imperialist world: Prepare. Your daysare numbered. Anywhere you go to re-extend your empires of misery, terror and greed, wherever you to try to keep crushing the peoples, anywhere you try to take charge, you are going to meet us face to face, armed and determined. Such villains who bombard children and old people ... do not deserve life!

Wherever the injustice, fear and pain that characterize you try to emerge from your sewers, they're going to come up against the iron wall of the antifascist struggle. We will Cross oceans, cross continents, we will sail the skies to go to the barricades gun in hand and take our post. Because you have the power, money, strength ... but that is worthless against the force of reason, against the love of our solidarity, against our revolutionary hatred. You will be swept away.

We have absolutely no fear. For you must understand that the fascists have only one end to their road ... total destruction. From now on you will find "Stalingrados" in every city. DONBASS will BE THE TOMB OF FASCISM! TODAY AS YESTERDAY ... **They shall not pass!!**

We will see you at the barricades!

INTERNATIONAL -BRIGADA CARLOS Palomino

You have complete freedom to translate this statement into the languages needed.

brigadacarlospalomino@gmail.com

US militarizes response to Ebola crisis while Cuba pledges medical aid

by Abayomi Azikiwe (2014-09-23)
http://pambazuka.org/en/category/features/92986

A team of eight experts and journalists visiting the southern region of the West African state of Guinea were found dead in the town of Nzerekore on Sept. 20. Reports indicate that they were there to educate people about the nature of the disease for the purpose of its prevention.

Reports from Guinea say that the delegation had met with elders in the community but were later attacked by youths. Investigations into the details of the killings are ongoing.

There is tremendous mistrust surrounding the spread of the Ebola disease in some West African states where the epidemic has had an impact. Doctors Without Borders reported in April that their teams were forced to withdraw from Macenta in Guinea after being stoned by youth who said they were there to spread the disease.

Newspaper articles and rumors have circulated that the outbreak is a direct result of biological warfare being waged by imperialist countries against the African continent.

Although no one knows what the motivations were of those who carried out the killings in Guinea, obviously there are many people who mistrust the motivations of foreign aid workers responding to the crisis. Guinea is the first country that was identified in the latest spread of the disease which has periodically struck in Central and West Africa over the last three decades.

BIOLOGICAL WARFARE AND ECONOMIC UNDERDEVELOPMENT

The most widely discussed and controversial article related to the spread of the Ebola was published by the leading newspaper in Liberia, The Observer. Dr. Cyril Broderick, a former professor of plant pathology at the university there, asserted that the spread of the disease is a direct result of U.S. Department of Defense bio-warfare against Africa.

Broderick's article was published on Sept. 9 and stated that "Africa must not relegate the Continent to become the locality for disposal and the deposition of hazardous chemicals, dangerous drugs, and chemical or biological agents of emerging diseases. There is urgent need for affirmative action in protecting the less affluent of poorer countries, especially African citizens, whose countries are not as scientifically and industrially endowed as the United States and most Western countries, sources of most viral or bacterial GMOs that are strategically designed as biological weapons. It is most disturbing that the U. S. Government has been operating a viral hemorrhagic fever bioterrorism research laboratory in Sierra Leone."

This same author goes on to ask "Are there others? Wherever they exist, it is time to terminate them. If any other sites exist, it is advisable to follow the delayed but essential step: Sierra Leone closed the US bioweapons lab and stopped Tulane University for further testing." (Sept. 9)

Broderick has been attacked for publishing the article and according to Health Impact News "The western pro-pharma media has chided Dr. Broderick, saying that such an inflammatory piece of writing is 'irresponsible' since so many Africans are already distrustful of western medicine. They see western medicine as the answer to Africa's deadly diseases such as Ebola, while Dr. Broderick sees it as the cause. Dr. Broderick states 'African people are not ignorant and gullible, as is being implicated.'" (healthimpactnews.com, Sept. 21)

Following the publication of this article, President Barack Obama announced on Sept. 16 that the U.S. would deploy 3,000 troops to the affected West African states as a means to combat the disease. Obama said in a press release that "The United States will leverage the unique capabilities of the U.S. military and broader uniformed services to help bring the epidemic under control. These efforts will entail command and control, logistics expertise, training, and engineering support." (White House press statement)

Washington is already heavily involved militarily in Africa. Several thousand Pentagon troops, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) operatives and State Department functionaries are on the continent as part of the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM). This intervention since 2008 has created more instability and underdevelopment in Africa as represented by the events in Egypt, Mali, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan and Nigeria where the ostensible partnerships aimed at curbing "terrorism" has prompted the intensification of conflict, dislocation and in the case of the Horn of Africa, famine.

Pentagon and CIA drone operations have carried out numerous targeted assassinations in Somalia. In Mali, a U.S.-trained military officer returned to this former French colony and staged a coup providing a rationale for internal destabilization as well as an ongoing occupation by Paris.

CUBA OFFERS MEDICAL SOLIDARITY

Meanwhile, the revolutionary nation of Cuba pledged to send medical personnel in the fight against the disease. Cuba has a profound history in providing unconditional solidarity with the African continent.

In an address on Sept. 18 before the United Nations Security Council emergency session on Ebola, Vice Minister of Foreign Relations Abelardo Moreno told the participants that "Cuba's response is part of our solidarity with Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Over the last 55 years we have collaborated in more than 158 countries, with the participation of 325,710 health workers. 76,744 collaborators have worked in 39 African countries. Today, in this sector, 4,048 Cubans are serving in 32 African nations; 2,269 of whom are doctors." (granma.cu, Sept. 19)

Moreno went on to report that "The medical brigades which will be sent to Africa to fight against Ebola form part of the "Henry Reeve International Contingent" - created in 2005 - composed of doctors specializing in combating disasters and large-scale epidemics. Cuba's response confirms the values of solidarity which have guided the Cuban Revolution: not to give what we can spare, but to share what we have."

This approach contrasts sharply with that of the White House and Pentagon. Cuba has built up considerable trust in Africa due to its consistent policy of international solidarity.

At least three countries which have reported Ebola cases are reporting improvements in fighting the disease and its proliferation. In Nigeria the Federal Government announced that schools would be re-opened on Sept. 22 despite opposition from the sections of the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT).

In Sierra Leone there was a state of emergency declared restricting movements for three days. The government announced on Sept. 22 that the situation was now under control. Similar announcements have been made in reference to developments in Senegal where at least one case has been reported.

Nonetheless, there have been nearly 3,000 deaths reported from the disease. In addition there are still numerous questions related to the conditions under which the disease is spread and the most effective means to treat and eradicate the epidemic. (WHO Update, Sept. 22)

This outbreak does draw attention to the need for genuine independence and development on the African continent. The training of medical personnel and scientific researchers would contribute immensely to preventing future healthcare crises.

Cuban revolutionary foreign policy provides an example of how underdeveloped states which have a legacy of slavery, colonialism and neo-colonialism can transform through a process of class struggle and self-reliance. With over five decades of hostility from the U.S., Cuba has been able to make significant contributions to African liberation whether in the fight against settler-colonialism in Southern Africa in years past or through the contemporary challenges related to the Ebola outbreak, the training of African medical personnel and other healthcare issues.

* Abayomi Azikiwe is Editor, Pan-African News Wire

One Struggle, Many Fronts: Boycott HP!

by HP Boycott Campaign Coalition

Recently, daily demonstrations were taking place in LA against police murders and against the massacres in Gaza. Increasingly, people are linking the two causes, recognizing that we live in a seamless empire where the same tear gas projectiles are used in Ferguson by militarized local police and state troopers, in Gaza by the occupying Israeli military, and in Egypt by the US-backed military junta. People recognize, too, that children -- and our collective future -- are under attack, whether at the militarily-imposed US border against refugee indigenous children; or in the ghettos and barrios of US cities where police function as an occupying army and internal border guard enforcing white supremacy; or in Gaza, where 1 million of the 1.8 million inhabitants are under 18; or in Africa, where treatable ailments from AIDS to Ebola are allowed to fester, and US-provoked warlords kidnap children into their "militias."

One effort to organize and educate about these connections is a growing campaign to boycott Hewlett-Packard. You've probably heard of HP. You may have one of their printers, or resent how much you pay for their ink. You might remember when their former CEO Carly Fiorina ran a right-wing campaign for the US Senate, or told Forbes "There's no job that's America's god-given right anymore." But did you know that HP has profited from prison labor? That HP is one of the 25 largest military contractors in the US? That HP profits from providing hardware and software to run the apartheid system of controlling the Palestinians, and technology to the Israeli military including the navy that has enforced the blockade of Gaza? HP exemplifies the integration of big capital and the state under imperialism in creating a militarized surveillance-security police state.

HP has a multi-million dollar contract with the California state prison and parole system, to create a digital database of all the information about prisoners and parolees, including who visits them. HP provides surveillance equipment to track dissidents in China and Iran, and has pleaded guilty to bribery of Polish, Russian and Mexican officials to get their business. HP has contracts with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to speed up deportation processing, and to train federal agents in a course on forensic computing.

HP tries to present itself as a "good corporate citizen," with a code of ethics. But the fact is, HP specializes in technologies to identify, monitor and control large populations. It sells them to prison authorities, immigration police, military forces and repressive regimes. These products are designed to limit human and civil rights, and threaten all of us.

If you're concerned about US support for Israeli massacres and illegal settlements in occupied Palestinian territories; about outsourcing; about surveillance; about mass incarceration and solitary confinement when HP's software identifies a prisoner as a "risk;" about record deportations that are tearing apart working families; it's time to take action! Join our informational picket Oct. 25.

For HP, surveillance, repression, incarceration, deportation, and militarism are profit centers, along with their ink, computers and accessories. For us, their profit is our loss -- loss of freedom, loss of rights, loss of our moral bearings in the world, even loss of life for people in Palestine or prison SHUs. It's time to stand up, and use our power to hit them where it hurts, in their bottom line. It's time to wake people up to the threat posed by HP and the systems of surveillance, militarism, and population control they enable. It's time to take back our power to shape a future based on human needs and freedom, on the solidarity of workers and oppressed people everywhere, whether in the ports, the prisons or Palestine. For more information, email **HPboycott@gmail.com**

2014 TORCH ANTIFA CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

In September, South Side ARA hosted the first annual TORCH antifascist network conference in Chicago. This conference is the time and place in which the TORCH network strategizes for not only internal growth but for our resistance against fascism, white supremacy, and the right.

In attendance were delegates from Philly Antifa, Central Texas ARA, Milwaukee Antifa, HARM, ARA-LA/PART, and of course South Side ARA. This time is also utilized to build antifascist culture, which is why we hosted a public event with speakers, bands, and tons of antifascist literature and merchandise.

The public day was held at Chitown Futbol. At around 5:30 the speakers started. Both Matthew Lyons and Michael Staudenmaier gave great presentations followed by Q&A. There were tons of groups present such as the War Zone distro, Black Rose, and IWW, tabling with literature and merchandise. Groups within the TORCH network were also tabling and had tons of anti-racist t-shirts, some of which were completely free. By about 7:30 Mandatory Abortions kicked off the show followed by La Armada, Krang, Wartorn, Wrathcobra, and ATU. By the end of the night hundreds of dollars were made to support antifascist political prisoners.

The night went on with no disruption from the fascists or the state and the 2014 TORCH conference was a huge success. Thank you too all the bands, speakers, organizations, and individuals who came out to support. A special thanks to the Chicago May 1st Anarchist Alliance and the Black Rose Anarchist Federation for sponsoring the event. South Side ARA has spent the past 5 years smashing fascism in our state and elsewhere and will continue to do so.

Fuck fascism! Fuck racism!

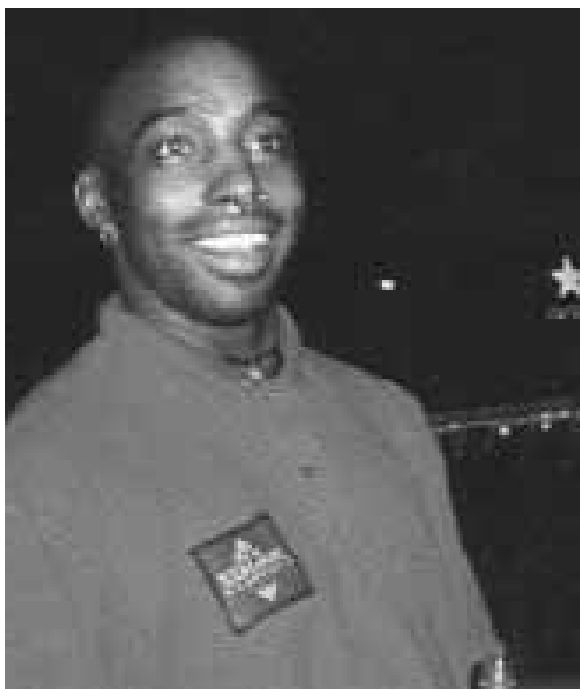
- South side ARA of the TORCH Network

JUSTICE DELAYED, JUSTICE DENIED: Neo-Nazis Acquitted in Murders of Spit & Dan in Vegas

by Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles

The impunity with which police across the country have been carrying out racist murders has extended once again to white supremacist and neo-nazi murders, as it did in the killings of civil rights activists in the South in the 60s and the Greensboro Massacre by the Klan and Nazis in 1979. Two nazis accused of the murders of Anti-Racist Action activists that took place in Las Vegas, Nevada more than 16 years ago have walked free, acquitted by a jury in a recent federal trial. The old civil rights slogan, "Justice Delayed is Justice Denied" has been proven true once again.

Ross Hack, 42, and Leland Jones,33, were found "not guilty" of all charges in the murders of Lin "Spit" Newborn and Danield Shersty, two anti-racist skinheads, following a two-week trial in Las Vegas. Hack and Jones, who once associated with racist bonehead groups, were accused of helping plan and carry out the 1998 shooting deaths of the two men who supported racial unity. The Nazis had each faced two counts of first-degree murder and two counts of using a firearm during a crime of violence. Hack's sister had earlier pleaded guilty, turned state's evidence and testified for the prosecution, as did John "Polar Bear" Butler, a neo-nazi who had been convicted in a state trial for the murders some years ago. There is no statute of limitations on murder, and the charges could be brought in federal court because the crime took place on federal land in northwest Las Vegas.



Lin "Spit" Newborn and Daniel Shersty
Martyrs of Anti-Racist Resistance, killed July 4, 1998 in Las Vegas, NV

Defense attorney Kennedy, a federal public defender appointed in the case, argued that there was no physical evidence linking the boneheads to the killings (unsurprising given the 16 year lapse between the killings and the trial). He acknowledged that Hack "made mistakes as a young man," when he was a self-proclaimed neo-Nazi skinhead. "But like many people, he went to college, earned a degree, learned about life," Kennedy told the Las Vegas papers. "And he hasn't been that man for many years." The lawyer neglected to mention that Hack was able to flee the country while initially under suspicion for the murder, going to Germany where he lived for many years with the support of his well-to-do family. Kennedy said Ross Hack attended an American university in Prague, graduated, married a Russian woman, had a daughter and wrote a book during his years in Europe. The lawyer said Hack and his wife have divorced.

Ross Hack was arrested in March 2008 on charges of passport fraud case after returning to the US. He eventually pleaded guilty to making a false statement on a passport application and was sentenced to three years in federal prison. Hack was about to be released from custody when he was indicted in the federal murder case in 2012. Federal authorities had taken over the long-dormant case, and a federal grand jury indicted Ross Hack, Melissa Hack and Leland Jones in February 2012, the same month Mandie Abels secretly pleaded guilty in federal court to conspiracy to commit murder. Abels was Ross Hack's girlfriend at the time of the killings.

Butler, who is serving a life sentence with no possibility of parole, and Abels, who is serving a 15-year prison term, testified for the government at the federal murder trial. They said they participated in the killings with Ross Hack, Melissa Hack, Jones and Daniel Hartung. All six had ties to neo-Nazi skinhead groups at the time. Hartung, who was Ross Hack's roommate when the killings occurred, is deceased. He died in a traffic accident shortly before the indictments were issued.

Abels and Melissa Hack, Ross's sister, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit murder. They testified that they lured Spit, a tattoo artist, and Dan, an active-duty member of the Air Force, to a remote desert site near Powerline Road and Centennial Parkway, where the two men were ambushed and fatally shot in the early morning hours of July 4, 1998. The bootprints of multiple individuals were found at the scene surrounding the two bodies. Melissa Hack's lawyer, Brent Bryson, said his client "sticks by her testimony," despite the jury's verdicts.

The case has been mishandled from the start. The media and police treated like an episode of gang violence between skinhead factions, instead of the brutal assassination of two anti-racist, human rights activists by neo-Nazi thugs. The Air Force sent military police investigators to investigate Dan's death, and then withdrew them, asserting it was not a case of terrorism, and that Dan was not targeted as a service member. Although Anti-Racist Action mobilized nationally to Las Vegas after the killings to support the local chapter, holding protests and marches on the Strip, other organizations such as the Southern Poverty Law Center refused to recognize the case for what it us or make it the kind of cause celebre that the Greensboro Massacre had been a generation earlier, when thousands mobilized to Greensboro, NC after the killings to denounce Nazi-Klan violence.

One or two people from ARA attended the trial, but the network, making the transition to TORCH Antifa Network, was not in a position to mobilize to the trial from around the country. Heidi Beirich, a representative of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project, which says that it monitors "hate groups and other extremists," attended much of the federal trial. She told the *Las Vegas Journal-News* she was surprised by the acquittals. "In this case, the government did what it could with what it had," she said, essentially given an alibi to the Feds and law enforcement for the long-delayed and ultimately failed prosecution. Beirich said racist and anti-racist groups often do battle, but their conflicts rarely rise to murder, according to the paper. This is adding insult to injury, a propagation of the "plague on both their houses" stance the SPLC has always taken, along with the Anti-Defamation League and other similar groups. They equate ARA, other anti-fascists, and advocates of Black self-defense as "extremists," just as responsible for violence as their Nazi opposite numbers. This is completely incorrect. It is the system of white supremacy and its conscious advocates who propagate racial violence, to the point of arson, assassinations, and mass murder. Against this, self defense is a basic human right, and as this case clearly demonstrates, a necessity. The ain't no justice, just us.

Spit and Dan are each survived by their fathers, Lionel Newborn and Walter Shersty and by other relatives and comrades. They live on in our hearts and in the struggle.

MARCH AGAINST RACISTS & RAPISTS IN PHILLY

Sept. 6, Antifa Philadelphia held a small March Against Racists and Rapists in the Tacony section of North Philly. When we arrived, we were greeted by some opposition. "Wait," you ask,"How could anyone oppose 'The March Against Racists and Rapists?'" Enter Keystone United, also known as the Keystone State "Skinheads." KSS called everyone they could get to come back them up. About 10-20 boneheads proceeded to threaten protestors as they arrived. They were joined by one family, who has produced at least 2 Neo-Nazi spawn, and the head of the Tacony town watch, who was mad about being trolled online after calling on us to cancel our march in the name of "maintaining the peace."

KSS released their laughably inaccurate take. The Nazis claimed that the only people at the march were a handful of Antifa Philadelphia members while they received community support. In fact we know the faces of the handful of Nazis there. They came from Harrisburg. Scranton. Mechanicsburg. Altoona. New Jersey. Our crowd was almost entirely Philadelphia residents, the majority from Tacony, willing to stand out in the rain to confront the Nazis. Inevitably KSS claims this as a victory. We see it more as the beginning of the end for them in the last neighborhood in Philly they felt safe.

-- Antifa Philadelphia

To Prisoners Throughout the System:

Due largely to the articulated oppressions of striking prisoners, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) is now making it a particular priority to become more prisoner-inclusive. Prisoners can now join the IWW union for free (Union dues waived). As a former prisoner (and resulting abolitionist) of 15 years, myself, I can say that the time for such an inside-outside solidarity is long over-due.

Below is a simple sample letter prisoners can write requesting Free membership into the union.

"Dear IWW:
Hello. My name is ____, and I'm a prisoner in ___ asking for free membership in Industrial Workers of the World. I affirm that I'm a worker and not an employer." We'll hold your Membership Card in our files (unless you request it shipped to an outside address). The same day we receive your letter requesting membership into the Union, I'll forward you a letter of confirmation, and within the week we'll forward you IWW-related literature for personal study.

About the IWW: The Industrial Workers of the World is a worker's union, founded 1905 with the goal of empowering the people by strengthening workers solidarity. While we fight to win struggles (i.e, wage-pay struggles, better working conditions, etc. through work stoppages and the like) at present, our overall goal is for working-class people ourselves to wrest the means and instruments of production (including our physical bodies) from the employing class (bosses and wardens of production) into the hands of the people who work them; to rid our lives from capitalism and to live in harmony with each other and with the earth. This cannot happen so long as we're wage slaves to the privileged few. Many of us have long enough struggled trying to strive in the dog-eat-dog and cut-throat lifestyle capitalism has degenerated society to. The General Strike (where so many of us fold their arms and refuses to work that it brings the capitalist system to its knees) is a primary weapon the people the world over have in our immediate possession, knowing that we who stop the machinery of production possess the technical know-how to start it up again, as well.

Prisoners have never really had a lobby working for them; We hope you join us as a people sick of living as commodities, involuntary servants and wage (as well as Constitutional) slaves.
Feel free to write us and join the One big Union. An injury to one is an injury to all!

In Solidarity with the oppressed and exploited,
Hybachi LeMar
Industrial Workers of the World
Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee
August 18, 2014

Letters requesting membership can be sent to:

IWW, Attn: Hybachi LeMar
P.O. Box 180195
Chicago, IL 60618

Excerpts from: A discussion on the Three Pilot Programs

by J. Heshima Denham, Zaharibu Dorrough and Kambui Robinson of the NCTT Corcoran Security Housing Unit (SHU)

Greetings, brothers and sisters. A firm, warm and solid embrace of revolutionary love is extended to you all.

We are all representative of a single socio-political and historic motive force. comprehensive strategic approach, coordinated and conducted by us all. Simply put, we are a single movement, and for us to have the social impact necessary to compel progress we must proceed with this realization as out guiding ethos. We of the NCTT (New Afrikan Collective Think Tank) in the Corcoran SHU (Security Housing Unit) have a proposal on effective strategic organizing we'd like to share with you.

Three pilot programs

We propose organizing an entirely new front for the struggle. We want to urge all our brothers and sisters in lumpen organizations within these communities, no matter what set you claim, what nation you ride – Sureño or Norteño – no matter what hood you represent or crew you roll with, to support and defend these brothers and sisters from all aspects of the Occupy Movement as they enter your/our communities. Brothers and sisters doing vital work in Occupy the Hood chapters, we ask you to expand your relationship with the Occupy Wall Street Movement beyond the people of color working group. Enter a broader phase of community development and social organization, which will see a union of all of our social forces in the practical work of building a new basis for relating to the productive system. Occupy the Hood is the natural bridge between all aspects of the 99%. Only through a union such as this can our movement be transformed into a true social revolution. Those who've engaged in support for the five core demands in opposition to these sensory deprivation torture units, if you retain any influence in your hood, barrio, trailer park or community, we urge you to have those on the streets from your community, get involved.

The three pilot programs we propose are: 1) the closed circuit economic initiative; 2) the sustainable community agricultural commons; 3) the block vote democratic initiative. We will explain each here in basic terms and should you need detailed program formats or other help, you need only contact us directly.

The Closed Circuit Economic Initiative

The Closed Circuit Economic Initiative (CCE Initiative) is a cooperative economic venture designed to amplify local wealth by re-circulating it in the community, while providing collective ownership of the venture to the community and movement. It's possible to increase the economic capacity of a community by circulating its wealth in that community for a longer period, especially if the community controls the economic circuit in which exchange flows.

Prepare fliers outlining this initiative in clear, easy-to-understand terms. Produce a survey that asks that community the three top goods or services they most frequently spend most of their money on. Then, we'll have the basis for our first economic venture based on the No. 1 pick. For example, say food is the area where the most money is spent. The first venture in this community's CCE Initiative would be a grocery. A community meeting can elect economic trustees for the CCE Fund: one from Occupy the Hood, one from Occupy Wall Street, and two from the community in which the venture is based. These four will collectively oversee the CCE Fund for that community, allowing funds raised to be accepted only by those four together – no single individual will have access – and only for the CCE Initiative venture agreed to via the democratic will of all involved.

Individuals in that community contribute $1-$2 bi-monthly, with their names, addresses and phone numbers to the CCE Initiative for a 6-month period. Funds will be deposited in the CCE Fund's account. We will hire only people from that community who are unemployed. Occupy Wall Street activists with accounting, business, tax, zoning, law, real estate, grocery or other related expertise should provide that expertise to ensure the success of these ventures. Once established, we needn't worry about patronage because those who own the venture – the community itself – will, of course, shop in their own grocery store and encourage others to. All the profits will go back to the CCE Fund with 60% being paid out monthly to all CCE Initiative registrants – those with a CCE certificate of contribution – in the form of a dividend check, the other 40% gaining interest in the CCE fund. In the next six months, we purchase a support venture, one that contributes directly to the initial venture; let's say a bakery. The grocery store will purchase its baked goods exclusively from the bakery. The bakery hires only jobless people from that community or movement.

The CCE Fund can then establish a local credit commons, where the community can invest in its own people's interests, to promote community prosperity and meet human needs. Here, people from the community and local movement can get micro-loans, home and auto financing, and standard banking services.

Sustainable Community Agricultural Commune

Chronic poverty and underemployment – the legacy of corporate greed and political corruption– can be linked to chronic disease, obesity and the health problems that accompany them. Of equal concern is the ecological impact of multinational corporate agribusiness. Yet it's within our power to change this dynamic by embracing sustainable urban farming as a viable alternative. Throughout the underclass communities of Amerika, there are vacant lots that we can reclaim and transform into urban gardens. These will feed the communities healthy and nutritious food, and provide a significant source of revenue.

Less than 2% of the food consumed in metropolitan areas in the U.S. is grown there. Urban areas consume billions of dollars of food each year, including junk food, sodas, fast food and processed snacks that, unfortunately, are staples of many poor folks' diets because the stuff is cheap and filling. But if our food was locally produced, it would be healthier and cheaper than if you bought it at your supermarket. It would be a source of revenue for the community by selling the surplus to local chefs, restaurants and our own farmers markets, while relying on organic and other agricultural advances to increase both quality and yields.

We call on activists to link with local underclass community organizers and pool their assets, expertise and labor to educate, organize and mobilize the community's residents for the sustainable community agricultural commune (SCA commune). Our first step will be in canvassing the community, distributing fliers to everyone, about our intention of building the SCA commune. Then go through the process of cataloging each square yard of land– who owns it, and what it'll take to get it secured for community use.

We encourage the movement to reach out to conscious businesses like Greenaid, a L.A.-based guerilla gardening company that makes clay, compost and seed balls that can be tossed in derelict urban areas to make them green spaces. Our urban farms will provide a safe place of peace and prosperity for our people, our children and our youth to fellowship as they build a brighter future for themselves, their communities and this world, all from the power of their hands, heads and hearts.

The Block-Vote Democratic Initiative

The ruling 1% has successfully hijacked the political process in Amerika. Few people vote in underclass communities because the disparities responsible for the misery in these communities are institutional and systemic to U.S. capitalist economics. No matter whom they vote into office, their plight does not change. Before the sleeping giant of underclass democratic power – the poor man and woman's vote – can be strategically harnessed, there must be some assurance that their interests will be realized. What we propose in the Block-Vote Democratic Initiative (BVD Initiative) is to do that by bypassing corrupt politicians altogether. Put the policies we, the 99%, support on the ballots of local, state and national elections via petition with a simultaneous voter registration "block" comprised of movement activists and entire underclass communities, so the sheer number of affirmative votes passes the policy measures outright.

There are three possible measures reflective of our 10 core demands we are fairly certain would find overwhelming support in underclass communities across Amerika:

1) Ban all corporate and financial influences, including lobbyists and "strategic analysts," from any aspect of the electoral process. Only individuals should be able to influence the polls with their votes and campaign contributions.

2) Establish community based parole boards, with a panel from the community where the offender lived and would return, determining when a term – such as 25 to life – has been sufficiently satisfied and he or she is ready to return home.

3) Establish universal health care for the poor. All individuals making under $25,000 a year and families making under $50,000 a year should be provided access to a comprehensive universal health care system

Such measures would pass overwhelmingly in the underclass communities of Amerika, empower those most disenfranchised segments of society, and improve the quality of life for over 100,000,000 people in the U.S.

It's our hope you all see the merits of what we propose here and act in accordance with it. In any conflict resolution scenario, the first step that should be made is a strategic analysis of yourself and those forces aligned against you to ascertain your relative strengths and weaknesses. If this is done correctly, we can calculate the prospects of victory or defeat. Conflict resolution and warfare are based on identical principles. Sun-Tzu, in his sage masterwork, "The Art of War," stated, "If you know your enemy and you know yourself, you need not fear the outcome of 100 battles." It's clear the 1% are pursuing a course of encirclement, isolation and marginalization against the national movement. It's a strategic approach that has worked for them in the past. This is possible only if we allow it.

The most prudent way to counter such an attempt is to place the movement in a position of invincibility, while simultaneously redefining the nature of the conflict itself. The movement is strong – we've shown that on every front, be it on the streets or behind these walls – yet it's largely unanchored to the material interests of those we represent. A seed in the ground is easily uprooted, a tree with deep roots, however, is a monumental task to remove.

You represent the ongoing struggle for democratic change in the U.S. A historical legacy reaching back hundreds of years is now in your hands. The means for victory are at our collective fingertips; you need only reach out and seize this opportunity. Will it be easy? Of course not. Nothing of value comes without cost or sacrifice. Power concedes nothing without demand. But what must be understood is that we, the people, the 99%, are the most powerful force in this world and our cause is just.

It's our sincere hope you find value in our counsel and take up these ideas as your own. Our love, loyalty and solidarity to all those who love freedom, justice and equality and fear only failure. Until we win.

For more information on the NCTT Corcoran SHU or details on these programs, contact:

• Zaharibu Dorrough, D-83611, CSP-COR-SHU, PO Box 3481, Corcoran, CA 93212
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http://nctt-corshu.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

★ Dec. 11, 6pm: Fighting Fascism from Above & Below, Peace Ctr, 3916 Sepulveda
★ Sun., Jan. 8, 2017: Mailing/distro gathering for Jan-Mar issue of *TTT*
★ Sat., January 14, Daryle Lamont Jenkins, One Peoples Project, Peace Center
★ Monday, January 16, Peace & Justice Contingent in MLK Parade, L.A.
★ 100X100 Fundraising Campaign for TTT gofundme.com/eugzgg ongoing
★ Sat., February 11, 7pm: 30th Anniv. of ARA-LA/PART, Editor M. Novick's 70th birthday

★ Check us out via www.antiracist.org, facebook.com/tideturning, ara-la.tumblr.com

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- MUMIA ABU JAMAL

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A JOURNAL OF INTER-COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY

TURNING THE TIDE

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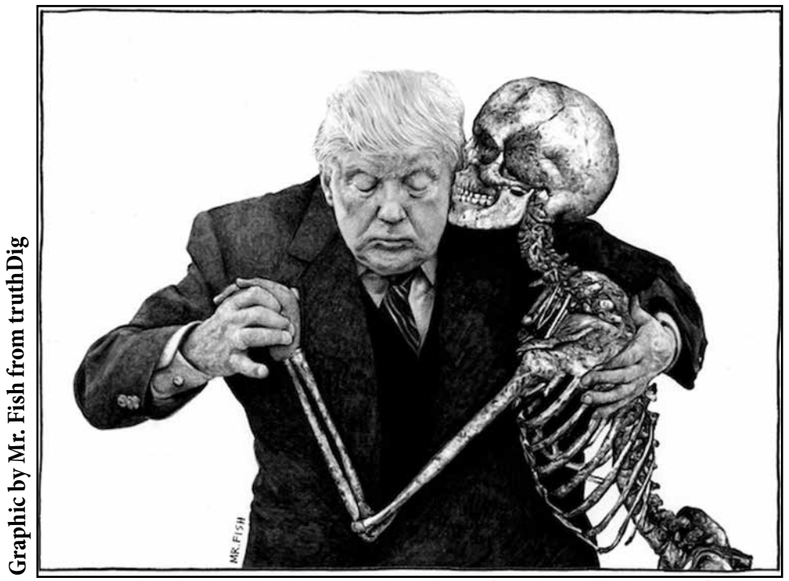

Graphic by Mr. Fish from truthDig

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Donald Trump's Rise

and the True History of the Racist Police State in Amerikkka!

by Laalaa Shakur, National Chief of Staff, Black Riders - New Generation Black Panther Party for Self Defense

"At no time in European history has there been a period of peace and harmony. Every moment of his past has been spent in the breakdown of civilization by causing disruption, disease, and artificial famine. You send me a date from the moment he emerged from his cave-dwelling days and I'll tell you which of his tribes were at war, either on us or on themselves. The whole of the western European's existence here in the U.S. has been the same, one long war with different peoples. This is the only thing they understand, the only thing they respect - the only thing they can do with any dexterity…" –George L. Jackson

Racist Donald Trump's rise to commander-in-chief of the racist police state (Fascism) in Amerikkka, stems from a long history of white supremacy, police terrorism, capitalism and imperialism. How did all this begin? Why was there a need to find a so-called new world for the racist Europeans in 1492?

Because they had all but completely destroyed Europe (what habitable parts there were) with their destruction and diseases from a lack of cleanliness, their volatile inhuman nature against each other and the land, and their lack of ability to grow a sustainable civilization to speak of. The numbers of the Europeans dwindled so much from war and murder amongst each other, famine, a lack of food, and unhealthy living conditions, they needed to figure out something before they were completely wiped out.

But what could they do? Every European thought that the world was flat and if you went too far west into the water you would fall off the face of the planet! But something had to be done. They had to reduce the amount of criminals that plagued Europe, to spare what little resources they had left as well as venture out to look for other means to survive. So the decrepit king and queen of Spain, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, came up with the idea of setting free all of the criminals, rapists, and murderers who were responsible for the crimes in Europe to be sent on a suicide mission of finding a new world. Christopher Columbus was the one they picked as captain to lead the fleet that would discover this so-called new world because of his history with successful previous voyages. After pardoning him for crimes of torture and tyranny, Christopher Columbus set sail. He was given an African who was skilled in the art of navigation and a boat load of criminals to go discover and explore, or fall off the planet altogether. So, when they arrived in so-called Amerikkka they were met by the native people (who are descendants of the first Africans to travel to the western part of the hemisphere) who Christopher thought was Indians. This was in 1492.

The start of the first colony in Amerikkka and the need for a policing system

During the creation of the triangle slave trade, the first colonizers to stay and claim so-called Amerikkka, was in 1607 in what they called Jamestown Virginia, the first colony to be established by the racist Europeans in the West. When they landed half dead from the long journey, the inhabitant tribes of natives took pity on them and showed them how to farm and grow food stock to survive and live off the land the natives intended to share. But this was not the racist colonizers' plan. Of course we know that they mass exterminated the natives that Christopher Columbus mistakenly called Indians through various methods like small pox filled blankets, and blatant out right trickery and murder, raiding local native villages and raping the land of its resources and killing off the people like they do everywhere and taking it for themselves.

After successfully taking the land from the local natives, the racist settlers began to set up plantations and work fields to cultivate products for profit. They had already tried to make the natives into slaves, but if they weren't escaping from the plantation, they were dying because the work was too much for them and the racist settlers needed more money to pay the taxes of the European British powers overseas. So they started bringing in Africans to be slaves on their plantations set up for profit mainly, to send portions of the cotton, tobacco, wheat, and sugar products back to Europe, through the triangle slave trade, and import and export routes. But due to the fact that they were destroying and taking land from the local natives, they needed to set up watchmen patrols to keep the few rebellious native tribes from raiding them in retaliation for the numerous attacks they made in taking the land in the first place, as well as keep slave rebellions at bay, which was almost a daily occurrence contrary to what most of us were taught to believe.

"The watch system was composed of community volunteers whose primary duty was to warn of impending danger. Boston created a night watch in 1636, New York in 1658 and Philadelphia in 1700…"

At times, rebellious warrior natives would even raid plantations to set Africans free to join them in fighting against the colonizer. At the same time, white indentured servitude was in effect, but due to the small potential of the white indentured servants and the African slaves joining together in fighting against the plantation master, (which happened in the Bacon rebellion in 1676) they ended white indentured servitude and started hiring them as slave catchers, night watchers and overseers. This was the racist ruling class's way of trying to prove to the likeminded envious poor whites that no matter what, even if you don't have money you are still better than those niggas, which enforced the mentality of white skinned privilege, and a false unified front amongst racist white people to always go against anything and anyone that is not white.

"In 1704, the colony of Carolina developed the nation's first slave patrol openly. Slave patrols helped to maintain the economic order and to assist the wealthy landowners in recovering and punishing slaves who essentially were considered property."

The slave patrols became the main form of work for the poor whites that lived in and around plantations but did not have plantations of their own. So they would get paid to hunt down and bring back run-away slaves to the plantations, sometimes dead or alive (i.e. mercenaries for hire). The slave patrols were most popular in the south mainly because the majority of the plantation industry was focused in the south, but they were also in the north like York (as New York was called then,) Boston, and Philadelphia. Even though it is not mentioned much but these places had plantations too, but some were euphemistically called factories.

Most slaves thought that if you escaped north you were free. But that simply was not true. A few succeeded, but they soon created methods to stop this trend that would make slaves want to run north. Some slave catchers and night watchers would work together to send slaves back south to the plantation if the pay was good enough to split. And in some cases even Canada would allow these slave catchers to cross the border to retrieve runaway slaves. Just like today, if you have a warrant in another state and happen to be caught, you will be extradited back to the state you caught the original charge at after you have already been tried in the state you were caught. Which means the starting of the extradition process has been practiced in the same way it always has, which is returning Africans back to the plantation.

"Slavery and the abuse of people of color, however, was not merely a southern affair as many have been taught to believe. Connecticut, New York and other colonies enacted laws to criminalize and control slaves. Congress also passed fugitive Slave Laws, laws allowing the detention and return of escaped slaves, in 1793 and 1850."

The so-called Amerikkkan Revolution

In the 1770's with the help of Benjamin Franklin's instigation, the Amerikkkan revolution started taking shape. The racist colonialists (calling themselves patriots) began to reject the British parliament's control over the taxes of local goods and wanted to control their own laws and taxes without parliaments' involvement. Antagonisms and back and forth continued between the so called patriots and the British. The patriots began raiding parties that resulted in the Boston Tea Party in 1773 where the patriots raided a ship load of tea that was parliament controlled, on the Boston Harbor and burned the ship. That ultimately was the last straw for the British.

The colonies created an alternate government and elected George Washington as General of the continental army. Of course the majority on the frontlines were African slave soldiers who either were tricked with the lie of being set free if they won against the British or outright forced to fight. Thus giving the patriots the advantage of having freedom hungry slaves fighting fiercely on the frontline for not their own independence, but for the independence of Britain's evil bastard child, Amerikkka and their racist colonialists.

From the start of racist Amerikkkan independence and on, they made new laws to continue to exploit Africans as slaves as well as keep them from rising on any level. The need for slave patrols and watchmen grew because there were constant slave rebellions and uprisings that took place throughout different places like Virginia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and other places. This made the white population very scared and racist white males began joining slave patrols (left and right) to stop the rise of the Negro revolts.

"Policing was not the only social institution enmeshed in slavery. Slavery was fully institutionalized in the American economic and legal order with laws being enacted at both the state and national divisions of government. Virginia, for example, enacted more than 130 slave statutes between 1689 and 1865."

Emancipation Proclamation and the Civil War of 1861-1865

"I will say then that I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political

See* Trump's Rise & the Racist Police State, *continued on p.

THE COMING

[col. writ. 11/23/16] ©2016 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

The time has come.

No longer need economic leaders choose political puppets to do their legislative bidding. Today, they simply buy, bribe or lie their way into political power.

The late Eldridge Cleaver, Minister of Information of the Black Panther Party, once said that when fascism comes to America, it won't need a swastika; it'll be singing Yankee Doodle Dandy – and waving American flags.

What is fascism?

The popular political definition is the union of corporations and the State.

Because of naked fear and brute ignorance, America has voted for a new political reality. And although it seemed as if the Republican Party was hurtling towards self-destruction, the Democrats lost what initially seemed like a sure thing.

The Democratic Party, whose head honchos insured the fall of the insurgent candidate, Senator Bernie Sanders, may've also insured failure by opting for yet another Clinton, remembered now for the ruinous economic impact upon workers because of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement).

NAFTA spelled the end for any Clinton victory in labor-heavy precincts, like Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Ironically, many of the people who voted for Trump were themselves beneficiaries of the Clinton crime bill, which helped establish dozens of prisons in lightly populated rural areas of Pennsylvania, even becoming the largest employer in some counties. I'd wager hat over 90% of prison guards voted not for the family that gave them lifetime jobs (Clinton), but for her nemesis: Donald Trump!

Not even the personally popular President, Barack Obama, could carry Hillary Clinton across the finish line, for his coattails did not reach that far.

Mumia Abu-Jamal in BPP office, 1971

Welcome to the New Fascism – unleashed will be the most racist, vicious and nationalist forces in the country.

That's what "America First" really means. (Guess who's last?)

'New Fascism' – also known as Trumpism.

--© 2016 maj

Trump's Rise & the True History of the Racist Police State

Continued from p. 1

equality of the white and black races…" were Lincoln's words during a campaign speech he made while still running to become president, in Charleston, Illinois Sept. 18, 1858. His position didn't change much. He was an advocate of colonization of Black people from the US into Africa, and believed it was impossible for black and white people to live together, let alone be equal in any way. He was a believer in white supremacy, and he viewed the war only in terms of preserving the Union. So in other words, the emancipation proclamation was not a moral decision, but was a military maneuver. But it would only take effect in the states that were in rebellion against the union, not in all states that practiced slavery. Slavery did not officially end on the books until the end of 1865 when the 13th amendment was introduced to the constitution and enforced, which states; "… the 13th amendment in the US constitution abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment of a crime…" which means, slavery never ended for Africans trapped in Amerikkka. It only took on a new name.

Now today in 2016

Fast forwarding to today, not much has changed since 1607-1865 until now. Donald Trump's rise is directly connected to the Electoral College that has its origins in slavery, even though he was selected by the racist ruling class to be the figurehead to carry out their "Final Solution" extermination of Black People. This year for the fourth time in history - and second time in recent history - a presidential candidate won the popular vote but lost the Electoral College and, therefore, lost the election. Hillary Clinton received 2,000,000 more votes than Donald Trump nationwide, yet lost big in the Electoral College. A prevailing racist lie surrounding the Electoral College was that the system was designed to protect small states. However, at the time of the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, the real division was between those states which practiced slavery and those which supposedly did not. Electing the president though the college instead of a straight tally of voters favored slaveholding states of the south, as they had a small number of eligible voters – wealthy, racist white landowners – but large numbers of people who were unable to vote, including over half a million enslaved Africans at the time.

At the convention, James Wilson of Pennsylvania called for Presidential elections based on the national vote, to which Virginian James Madison responded: "The right of suffrage was much more diffusive [i.e., extensive] in the Northern than the Southern states; and the latter could have no influence in the election on the score of Negros." Madison meant that the North would overrun the South in the Electoral process. As a result, the convention allowed Southern states to count three-fifths of their enslaved population to determine the representation of each state in Congress, creating a perverse incentive allowing these states to benefit from the institution. Accumulate more enslaved people and increase your influence in the federal electoral system. The racist European thinking was, "Free your Black people and watch your political power wane."

Today, old slave catcher buildings and headquarters only transitioned into Sheriff's departments and pig police stations, with new ones being created and state funded as the primary "safety enforcement" for the property of the rich and keeping their profits up by creating ways to send Black People back into legalized slavery (prisons). The racist pig police are an occupying army used to deploy on us at any given moment we threaten the economic system, or try to be anything other than how they want us, which is nothing but slaves. No different than 1690.

"…there are more Black people in prison and jail today, than there were slaves on the plantation before the start of the Civil War…"

From sharecropping to segregation laws, racial discrimination in the job industry creating the high unemployment rates. The state ran (mainly police and law enforcement agencies) drug and weapons smuggling into specifically the poor oppressed Black Community, the overwhelming number of Black men and women being sent to the prison industrial complex due to these dynamics, on to the blatant murders of Black People in the streets at the hands of the police and more. We see there has been no real progress for Black People in Amerikkka.

"After the civil war, the form of slavery changed from chattel to economic slavery, and we were thrown onto the labor market to compete at a disadvantage with poor whites. Ever since that time, our principal enemy must be isolated and identified as capitalism and white supremacy. The slaver was and is the factory owner, businessman of capitalist amerikkka, the man responsible for the employment, wages, prices, and control of the nation's institutions and culture…"

Point J of the Black Riders Black Commune Program states: "We Ride for an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of Black people. We Ride because we believe we can end police brutality in our Black community by organizing Black self-defense groups dedicated to defending our Black community from racist police oppression and brutality. The 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives a right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all Black people should arm themselves for self-defense."

Out of all of the tactics we have tried in the past; protests, sit ins, stand ins, pray ins, and lay ins, it has not worked. Now is the time for Black People to wake up, clean up, stand up, and arm up to defend ourselves from these attacks by any means necessary. The only real solution to end racist police oppression, capitalism, fascism, and US imperialism is through ARMED REVOLUTION.

As General T.A.C.O., Leader of Black Riders states; "The Black Riders, New Generation Black Panther Party for Self Defense is a group that was created in Los Angeles in 1996. We have existed for 20 years pushing the line for our people's freedom.

Last year, we traveled from California to Texas and marched with the Huey P. Newton Gun Club though South by Southwest in Austin, openly carrying guns to the state capitol to raise black consciousness and awareness of our second amendment constitutional right to bear arms after the police brutal murders of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Ezell Ford in Los Angeles, Eric Garner in New York, and Clinton Allan in Texas.

The Black Riders has been organizing the Watch-A-Pig patrols for 20 years in which we police the police in California. For the past few years we have been organizing the patrols nationwide to defend against police terrorism. While we can't lawfully carry loaded guns in California, we use video cameras, law booklets, and other legal weapons to observe the police, at a legal distance, pulling over and detaining innocent Black People…"

Revolutionary Bulletproof Love!

Black Power! All Power to the People who Don't Fear Freedom! RBG 4 LIFE!

Contact Info for the Black Riders

Reach the Black Riders Liberation Party, New Generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, at PO Box 8297, Los Angeles CA 90008, blackriders1996@gmail.com or by calling 601-557-2757 (BRLP), or on facebook, Black-Riders-Liberation-Party. Join Now!

We would like to thank everyone who believed in us and supported us in every way. Thanks go out to all of the people who have donated quarters, nickels, dimes, and dollars to support our programs, activities, and newspaper for the last 20 years. Without the support of the people, we could never have become a national organization. We still have a lot of work to do. Please continue to support us as we serve and defend the people with our hearts, minds. bodies and souls. - General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out)

PART's Perspective:

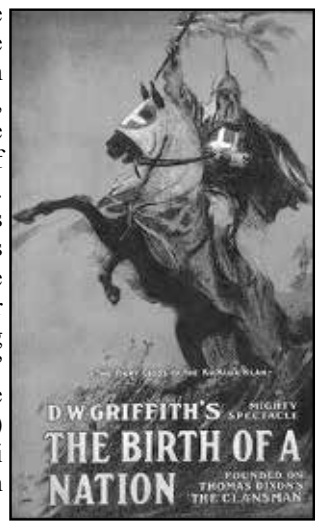
Resist to Exist!

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror***

The persistence of deep-rooted, intergenerational anti-Black racism in the US, manifest in schools, housing, health and medical care, policing, courts, prisons, employment, household income and wealth or poverty, and every other sphere of life is evident to anyone willing to trust the evidence of their senses. Yet as the Nobel laureate Bob Dylan once sang, "How many ears must one man have, before he can hear people cry?"

Liberals and pundits, especially but not exclusively of European descent, who were fond of denouncing Trump and the Republicans for promoting "fact-free" policies and prejudices, were gob-smacked by their own willful ignorance of the facts of white supremacist, patriarchal, exploitive settler colonialism when slapped in the face by Trump's victory. Their blinders removed, they are stunned by the impact of the in-rushing flood of reality. Many are falling back on the old and familiar, trying to circumscribe their response to policy advocacy or ritualistic demonstrations. But the times demand that all of us do more, and do better -- quickly.

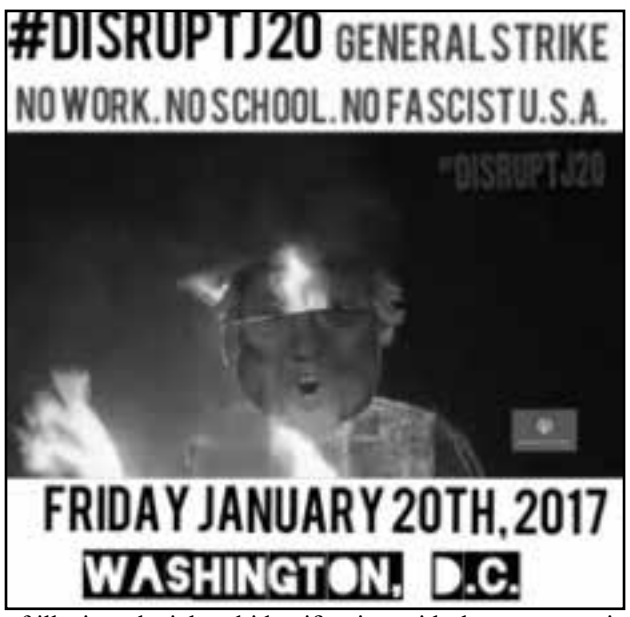
In 1915, segregationist Democratic US President Woodrow Wilson screened "The Birth of a Nation" in the White House, and helped birth the 20th Century Ku Klux Klan. In 2016, pResident-elect Donald Chump is installing the 21st Century suit-and-tie KKK directly into the White House, notably in the person of Steve Bannon of Breitbart, a principal platform for the self-named "alt-right" of racists and white nationalists. Emboldened by Trump's campaign, victory and his appointments, they have become more naked in their fascism and racism, chanting "Hail Trump! Hail Victory!" (English translation of the nazi slogan "Sieg Heil!") and giving stiff-armed nazi salutes at their celebration in DC.



On Jan. 20, 2017, the Ku Klux Klan and a variety of other white power and white nationalist formations are planning to be in Washington DC to welcome and celebrate Trump's inauguration. This too, is an echo of earlier occasions,

including the 1920s, when the KKK marched in hoods and robes by the thousands in DC and named governors and senators in many states; and 1980, when the Klan announced a rally to welcome Ronald Reagan to DC, but were chased out of town by angry Black Washingtonians and a national mobilization of anti-Klan activists.

That the Klan plans, along with those of the Empire for a "peaceful transition of power," must be disrupted should be as evident as the shorter life spans, longer prison sentences, higher unemployment and lower high school graduation rates Black people suffer, or the vast wealth the US rulers extract from all around the globe. But the grip



of illusion, denial and identification with the oppressor is very strong. We need to do much more than disrupt the trappings of power, or expose and oppose the blatant neo-nazis and conscious white supremacists. We need a fundamental breach with the settler colonial Empire. We must base our strategies, our tactics, our definitions of friends and enemies, on the understanding that there is an irreconcilable contradiction between on the one hand freedom, justice and survival for the vast majority of humanity and most of the living species, and on the other hand, the system of conquest, colonialism and the private expropriation of land, water, and the products of human creativity and labor.

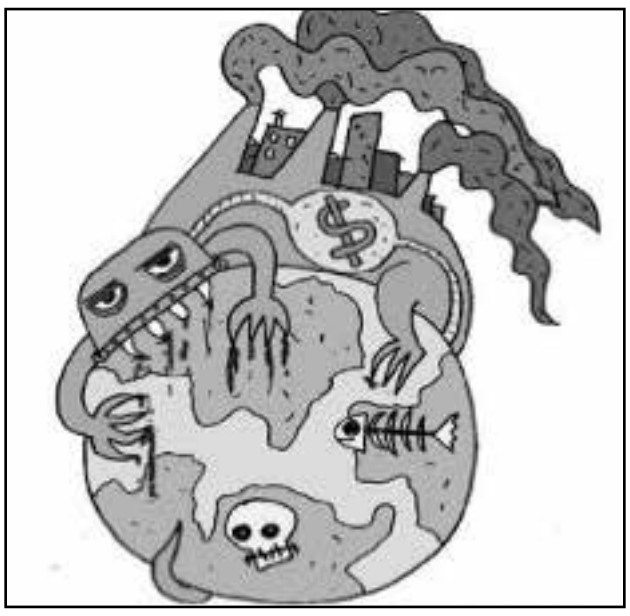
A lot of people these days are talking about resistance without a clear conception of what it entails or on what it can be based. What are the examples that can guide us in deepening our understanding and practice of resistance? Many people associate the term resistance to opposition to fascism. We can look, it's true, to the French Resistance against Nazi occupation during World War II, as well as that of the Greeks and Yugoslav partisans, and to examples of Resistance inside Nazi Germany itself.

But we must also look to the Algerian resistance to French colonialism, to the Vietnamese resistance against French, Japanese and US occupation, Palestinian resistance to Zionist occupation, to the indigenous resistance to half a millennium of settler colonialism in the Americas. In Puerto Rico, which has been colonized, with genocidal impact, since Columbus, resistance principles were once summed up in a concept of "*retraimiento*," translated as a refusal to identify with their oppressor or to collaborate in their own oppression.

Resistance must almost always operate at least partially from clandestinity; it must incorporate multiple modalities and tactics that will include physically impeding and disrupting the operations, wealth extraction, military maneuvers, surveillance, propaganda and methods of domination of the oppressor.

The US has for too long been the world bastion of reaction through the active or passive consent of about a third of a billion people (not only white people) inside its militarily-imposed borders. This has allowed the creation of a vast military and counter-insurgency apparatus that imposes compliant governments on other countries and peoples, enforces the extraction of vast amounts of wealth from colonized and semi-colonized people, and inevitably shapes life and death inside the borders as well.

A weakness of previous forms of anti-fascism and anti-imperialism, which have often been separate from each other, is that, predicated on a cross-class alliance against 'extremism' or foreign invasion, they stopped short of full social and economic transformation. Much



more is called for today. Fascism here is rooted in a history of colonialism, particularly settler colonialism, and its method of rule and of wealth extraction -- slave labor, genocide, harsh repression against dissidents and against collective defense of working people's rights, as well as incorporation of a mass base and the integration of private, corporate wealth into the state apparatus -- have been the hallmarks of settler colonialism in the US and elsewhere.

So today, anti-fascist and anti-imperialist resistance in the US must be anti-capitalist and anti-colonialist. Within that framework, there is room for a diversity of tactics, organizations, alliances and even ideologies. The base of solidarity from which people can resist, and the goals of liberation towards which any resistance must chart a course of positive social transformation, do not require uniformity. We will all be inevitably enlightened, educated and transformed in and by the struggle. Some may resist based on religious faith or the collective consciousness of a denial of national rights and sovereignty. Others may fight to preserve and protect the earth, the water and the life forms that dwell therein, or to end their own poverty, degradation and the theft of their humanity and creativity. Or it may be a combination of such factors.

Too many on the left for too long have been defined by *either/or* political positions and sectarianism, to mutual detriment and eventual often fatal defeats. Whether we are talking about divisions in South Korea between opposing dictatorship or opposing US domination and division of Korea; about the split within the Black Panther Party, or the differences between the Panthers and the League of Revolutionary Black Workers; or about the divisions between autonomists and anti-imperialists in West Germany, such divisions have weakened the peoples' movements, and given a freer hand to the oppressors and exploiters, the Empire, to divide, conquer and repeatedly liquidate threats. We cannot afford the same errors again.

Recently, the Charlotte, NC chapter of *Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)* announced it was dissolving, and called for the dissolution of SURJ nationally, because it asserted that the only correct organizational form for white people's participation in struggles against white supremacy and for racial justice was in multi-racial formations led by people of color. Setting aside other issues or struggles about class composition or political orientation of SURJ, such an *either/or* proposition is effectively a *diktat* to people of color as well as to white people that they must be in such multi-racial formations. This is clearly wrong. There is room and need for national formations, for local coalitions, for groups based exclusively on and within Black, indigenous or other colonized or oppressed people. Thus there may also at times be a role for so-called white people to work together with other white people to undermine and uproot white supremacy and settler colonialism. I engage in direct solidarity and material aid with revolutionary liberation organizations of various peoples of color, work in multi-racial, international coalitions, and undertake anti-white-supremacist work jointly with others of European descent. Though there are some contradictions, those efforts are in the main mutually-reinforcing.

The definitional struggle about *allies or accomplices* is another example of limited and limiting *either/or* thinking. Allies can be a powerful statement of people fighting actively alongside each other; or it can be diminished to a kind of self-righteous statement of identity or status, rather than a militant, revolutionary practice. Accomplice can be a daring embrace of illegality and transgression of the boundaries of polite or civil obedience, or it can reflect a kind of internalization of judicial criminalization.

We all must increase the level of risk we are willing to take, the level of commitment we are willing to make, recognizing that the greatest risk -- in fact the guarantee of defeat, of a half-life of submission and of mass extinctions -- is to do nothing. We have to figure out ways to become ungovernable, to weaken the bonds that hold people in subordination to and identification with the oppressor, to identify and exacerbate the internal contradictions of our enemy -- the oppressors and exploiters and those attack dogs who carry out their orders.

The erratic nature of Trump's pronouncements and personality make it hard to predict exactly what forms of resistance we may be called upon to practice. But whether it involves an Underground Railroad/Sanctuary system for undocumented people; provision of birth control, abortion and other reproductive health services to women; creation of secure means of communication or whistleblowing on the surveillance state; community self-defense mechanisms; or protection of eco-systems from the death machine of capitalism, any effective resistance is likely to involve illegality, and facing down repression.

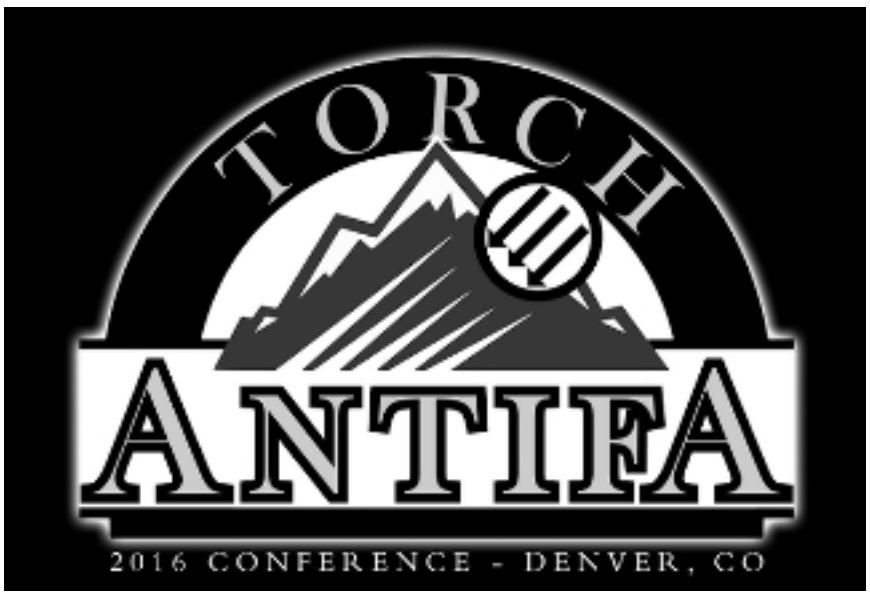
Resistance presupposes moving from a position of relative weakness to one of relative strength, to begin to dictate to and shape the circumstances of the enemy, as opposed to vice versa. The Black freedom movement, the indigenous sovereignty movement, the prisoners' struggle against legalized slavery under conditions of captivity and repression all point the way forward. Like settler colonialism, these forms of resistance were around long before Trump. We must base our collective resistance on a culture and communities of solidarity and a vision for liberation that will create a pole of attraction to draw people into the resistance movement and struggle, one that can and must go on beyond the lifetimes of those who initiate or revive it.

TORCH ANTIFA NETWORK GATHERING

by ***Rocky Mountain Antifa***

Rocky Mountain Antifa, which hosted, is pleased to announce the success of the 3rd annual TORCH Antifa Network Conference! TORCH is a network of various antifascist groups working autonomously. We come together to share resources, information, and strategy. Our purpose is to oppose and fight all formations of fascism. We confront neo-nazis, anti-migrant, anti-LGBTQ, anti-choice, anti-Muslim, the KKK, Trump supporters, the Alt-right, and more. Such groups and individuals have never been a minor issue. Although it was only a year ago when many fascists were hiding, they still contributed to and promoted violence against women, Muslims, people of color, LGBTQ people, and social justice activists.

Groups like Blood and Honour, the Ku Klux Klan, Keystone State Skinheads, Golden State Skinheads, and the American Freedom Party continue to pop up on our radar. In addition, new ones have appeared such as the Traditionalist Workers Party, Soldiers of Odin, Identity Evropa, and far-right militias such as Oath Keepers and Three Percent Patriots. With the state and mainstream media jumping at the chance to amplify their bigotry, the rising movement of fascism is not a joke. It's not a bad dream, bad movie, or section of a political science book. This is real.



On Friday Nov. 11, TORCH chapters gathered in Denver on the heels of the US elections to discuss the network and upcoming goals/strategies. In attendance were Rocky Mountain Antifa, Philly Antifa, WNC Antifa, Los Angeles People Against Racist Terror (PART)/ARA-LA, and South Side Chicago ARA. Then on Saturday Nov. 12th, a much larger crowd gathered for the semi-public portion of the conference. Attendance consisted of groups and individuals from: Denver CO, Philadelphia PA, Los Angeles and the Bay Area CA, Asheville NC, Richmond VA, Dallas/Ft. Worth and Houston TX, Atlanta GA, Minneapolis MN, Portland OR, New Jersey and Chicago IL. Many involved also participated in the large nightly anti-Trump protests taking place in Denver as we met.

The larger event kicked off with a panel of speakers. Four Tasks for Confronting Contemporary Fascism were proposed: confronting machismo; defense ideas and strategy; counter recruitment to undermine white supremacy; and identifying our allies and connecting struggles. Especially in the light of recent struggle around Standing Rock and #NoDAPL, which a number of gathering participants had been involved in solidarity with, the theme of the relationship between anti-colonialism and anti-fascism was addressed.

After a break we regrouped for a workshop on antifascist prisoner organizing. This was connected with a discussion about organizing in rural areas, where many prisons are located. Finally, we ended with a facilitated discussion on so-called "Alt-right" white nationalist formations, strategies and tactics for moving forward, collective resources and implementation, and a go around of the efforts in our different regions. The conference was a huge success, and with no disruptions from the enemy.

We want to take a moment to answer the question of "What happened to TORCH?" We assure everyone that we are still here and still fighting fascism in the streets and on the Internet. The TORCH network is stronger than ever. If you noticed the website was down, it was because of technical issues with the server. These problems are being resolved as we speak and we will soon be re-launching our twitter account. The network expanded over the weekend with new chapters vouched in, and we are planning much greater numbers by this time next year. The tactics of TORCH have been effective for us and many others. We will continue to neutralize the efforts of fascist organizing and recruitment. Under a Trump regime we cannot fall short of our goals. For more information on our analysis of fascism and our points of unity, as well as contact info for our chapters, go to www.Torchantifa.org. We have a lot of work to do. ***We intend to win!***

Confronting The Trump Regime:

For years antifascists have warned the world of nationalist formations and their influence in politics and mainstream media. Since the inception of the Trump campaign, we warned everyone of the seriousness of this man, the consequences of his presidency, as well as the uselessness of voting in electoral politics. We demanded ACTION to stop fascists from taking power. When we took actions ourselves, we were smeared by many on the liberal left. Perhaps the most notable example was the June 26th action in Sacramento to shut down the neo-nazi rally organized by Matt Heimbach. The aftermath was a sea of liberals defending the neo-nazis and shaming Antifa. Then on Tuesday November 8, 2016, a Trump was elected, changing things forever. Unsurprisingly, Antifa haven't seen as much of the character assassination we saw just a short time ago. The shift is massive.

In light of the emergency protests erupting across the country, in enormous numbers, it seems many have finally acknowledged the grim reality we warned about. Social media is blowing up with encouragement to join your local Antifa groups. What does this mean for Antifa? It

means our role has increased drastically. We are more than local crews combating local fascists. We are essentially tasked with building resistance to a fascist regime. For those of us who saw this coming as well as those who are just waking up, we need to recognize our significance at this moment. All social movement organizing is now antifascist organizing. We are at a pivotal point in the outcome of this overwhelming shit show. Mistakes made now are more detrimental than ever. Every step needs to note the masses of people looking at us for an idea of what to do.

We call on antifascists everywhere to be bold moving forward. If you haven't already, join your local Antifa group or start a new one. If starting a new one, pick your most trusted people and develop a secure strategy for recruiting more. Consider that Trump plans to immediately deport up to 3 million people. This means that 3 million friends, family, allies, accomplices, comrades, and community members need backup. Develop community-based coalitions and create local defense networks to resist raids and deportation. Secure your communications with Tor, Signal, Tails, GNU Privacy Guard (GPG), Full Disk Encryption, and read the limitations of each. Seek firearms and self defense training and share skills with everyone around you. Stock up on medical supplies, emergency contraceptives, and hormones. Stay together, support one another, and keep fighting.

There has been a call for a mass convergence in Washington D.C. to disrupt the inauguration of Trump. The TORCH Network endorses this action with several other organizations. We encourage all who reject domination and oppression to be there.

Solidarity,

Rocky Mountain Antifa and the TORCH Antifa Network

#DisruptJ20: NO PEACEFUL TRANSITION

On Friday, January 20, 2017, Donald Trump will be inaugurated as president of the US. We call on all people of good conscience to join in disrupting the ceremonies. If Trump is to be inaugurated at all, let it happen behind closed doors, showing the true face of the security state Trump will preside over. It must be made clear to the whole world that the vast majority of people in the US do not support his presidency or consent to his rule.

Trump stands for tyranny, greed, racism and misogyny. He is the champion of neo-nazis and white Nationalists, of the police who kill the Black, Brown and poor on a daily basis, of racist border agents and sadistic prison guards, of the FBI and NSA who tap your phone and read your email. He is the harbinger of even more climate catastrophe, deportation, discrimination, and endless war. He continues to deny the existence of climate change, in spite of all the evidence, putting the future of the whole human race at stake. The KKK, Vladimir Putin, Golden Dawn, and the Islamic State all cheered his victory. If we let his inauguration go unchallenged, we are opening the door to the future they envision.

Trump's success confirms the bankruptcy of representative democracy. Rather than using the democratic process as an alibi for inaction, we must show that no election could legitimize his agenda. Neither the Democrats nor any other political party or politician will save us—they just offer a weaker version of the same thing. If there is going to be positive change in this society, we have to make it ourselves, together, through direct action.

From day one, the Trump presidency will be a disaster. #DisruptJ20 will be the start of the resistance. We must take to the streets and protest, blockade, disrupt, intervene, sit in, walk out, rise up, and make more noise and good trouble than the establishment can bear. The parade must be stopped. We must delegitimize Trump and all he represents. It's time to defend ourselves, our loved ones, and the world that sustains us as if our lives depend on it—because they do.

In Washington, DC

DC will not be hospitable to the Trump administration. Every corporation must openly declare whether they side with him or with the people who will suffer at his hands. Thousands will converge and demonstrate resistance to the Trump regime. Save the date. A website will appear shortly with more details. #DisruptJ20

Around the US

If you can't make it to Washington, DC on January 20, take to the streets wherever you are. We call on our comrades to organize demonstrations and other actions for the night of January 20. There is also a call for a general strike to take place. Organize a walkout at your school now. Workers: call out sick and take the day off. No work, no school, no shopping, no housework. #DisruptJ20

Around the World

If you are living outside the US, you can take action at US embassies, borders, or other symbols of neocolonial power. Our allegiance is not to "making America great again," but to all of humanity and the planet. #DisruptJ20

Spread the word. Join the fight. #DisruptJ20

Signed,

Agency, CrimethInc. Workers' Collective, It's Going Down, subMedia, Earth First! Journal, AK Press, PM Press, Indigenous Action, New York Anarchist Action, The Base (Brooklyn) and a host of other antifa, environmental, labor, student and anarchist groups around the US and internationally.

If you endorse this call, sign your name at the bottom of this list and circulate it.

Email **disruptj20@riseup.net** to be included in the above list.

Para Fidel: Fidel Castro-Ruz (1926-2016) Viva Fidel!

[col. writ. 11/27/16] ©2016 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Fidel Castro, father of the 1959 Cuban Revolution, has died, after 90 years of a life of rebellion and resistance. That this bold revolutionary figure lived as long as he did is itself a victory, for he outlived at least 11 assassination attempts launched by the CIA.

11 times that the US government has admitted!

As a young man, he earned a law degree, but he never practiced; he took the revolutionary path--and began a struggle against the US-supported Cuban dictator, Fulgencio Batista. That struggle, which led to the fall of Batista, inspired people all around the world.

One of those inspired was the late Huey P. Newton, cofounder of the Black Panther Party, who, in a 1967 jail interview, noted:

"When Fidel Castro started the Revolution, along with Che Guevara, with 12 of them altogether, they realized that they wouldn't be able to topple the, uh, oppressive regime in Cuba. What they were essentially was an educational body. They engaged with the Army, they fought with the Army, and, uh, they showed the people that the army was not bullet-proof, that the police were not bullet-proof. And that Batista's regime was not a regime that was

impossible to topple, so the people began to feel their strength."-Dr. Huey P. Newton.

Fidel was a friend of Malcolm X, and a life long friend of Africa. The racist regime of Apartheid South Africa got whipped in Angola, with tens of thousands of Cuban troops in the field. The notorious battle of Cuito Carneval, Angola was where South Africa saw the bloody handwriting on the wall.

Castro once said:

"African blood flows in our veins. Many of our Ancestors came as slaves from Africa to this land. As slaves they struggled quite a great deal. They fought as members of the liberating army of Cuba. We're brothers and sisters of the people of Africa and we are ready to fight in their behalf."

Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution never bowed to the US Empire--not once in over ½ a century. The Cuban Revolution produced the finest educational system in the Caribbean and much of the world. They have sent their doctors all around the Earth.

The world mourns the passing of a giant.

Fidel Castro-Ruz, Comandante de la Revolución. ¡Presente!

--©2016 maj

http://www.prisonradio.org/media/audio/mumia/fidel-1926-2016-258-mumia-abu-jamal

Write to Mumia, and donate to Prison Radio:

Mumia Abu-Jamal, #AM 8335
SCI Mahanoy
301 Morea Dr., Frackville PA 17932

Anti-Klan Activist & Researcher Daryle Lamont Jenkins Speaks in LA Saturday, January 14, 7pm

Daryle Lamont Jenkins, right, on The Rachel Maddow Show, MSNBC

At an "Alt-Right" conference immediately after the election of Donald Trump, leader Richard Spencer declared "Hail Trump! Hail our people! Hail victory! To be white is to be a striver, a crusader, an explorer and a conqueror. We build. We produce. We go upward. And we recognize the central lie of American race relations. We don't exploit other groups. We—we don't gain anything from their presence. They need us, and not the other way around. America was, until this past generation, a white country, designed for ourselves and our posterity. It is our creation, it is our inheritance, and it belongs to us." Hail Victory, of course, is the English translation of the nazi chant to Hitler, "Sieg Heil!" Spencer was greeted with stiff-armed nazi salutes from many in the crowd, visible on the video. The gathering had been called before the election to strategize and commiserate over an expected Trump loss and swiftly metamorphosed into a victory celebration. One unanticipated result of the election may be the over-confident self-exposure of closeted neo-nazis and white supremacists, suit-and-tie fascists who are blowing their cover and making antifa opposition research a lot easier.

Daryle Lamont Jenkins, one of the leading anti-Klan researchers and archivists in the US will be speaking in Los Angeles on Saturday, January 14, 2017 (during the Martin Luther King weekend) at 7:00 PM at the Peace Center, 3916 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City 90232, between Washington Place and Venice Blvd. (free parking in rear, dial 22 for entry), hosted by Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART). Jenkins has appeared on numerous broadcasts, produces a podcast and is the L.A. area for a press tour related to a mini-series based on her work on the A&E cable television network (consult your local listing or video provider for more details on when the series will air.

Jenkins spoke, along with ARA-LA/PART founder Michael Novick at the TORCH Antifa Network gathering in Denver CO in November. Jenkins will be sharing some of his voluminous informational files on the threats posed by various white power groups that operate locally and nationally and talking about how to gather intelligence about and expose their operations.

For more information, contact ARA-LA/PART at 323-636-7388 or email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Anti-Racist Action-LA/ People Against Racist Terror Saturday February 11, 7pm

People Against Racist Terror (PART) started in 1987 to expose and oppose a Glendale, CA appearance by former Birmingham church-bomber J.B. Stoner, who was on a national speaking tour on the theme of "AIDS: God's Gift to the White Man." Stoner, then recently released from prison after having been underground for some years after the bombings, was trying to attract support for his old-style Klan type politics from the rising scene of nazi-oriented boneheads being recruited to fascism and white power politics through music from racist bands like Skrewdriver.

PART founder Michael Novick, previously a member of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee, had continued doing intelligence gathering on local racist and fascist groups after the JBAKC pulled up stakes and left LA. Upon learning of Stoner's plans, he pulled together a small group of anti-racists and spread the word widely locally, using the name ***People Against Racist Terror*** and the acronym PART, with the slogan, "Be PART of the Solution!"

PART drew over 1000 people to its maiden protest, got the Glendale library to cancel one appearance and then marched on the Glendale Holiday Inn, where Stoner's supporters had set up a private meeting. A few boneheads showed up and got booted, and the Glendale police declared the whole protest an illegal assembly, closed the freeway off-ramps to prevent more people from joining us, and rolled out a water cannon (though they didn't actually fire it) to disperse the crowd.

PART almost immediately began communicating with other anti-racist groups around the country, many of which used the Anti-Racist Action name, and eventually added ARA-LA to its name, keeping the PART acronym. In the ensuing years, it helped develop the campaign for community control of the police with former Black Panther Michael Zinzun, and helped build the NeighborsAgainst Nazis grouping in Simi Valley to oppose KKK organizing there in the wake of the acquittal of the cops who beat Rodney King. Its publication ***Turning The Tide*** was one of the first to translate and publish the communiques of the EZLN when they rose up against NAFTA's impact on the indigenous people of Mexico, and ARA-LA/PART later helped build the Crack the CIA Coalition, which held the first demonstration in the US demanding the dismantling of the agency, along with reparations to the Black and other impacted communities and to the Nicaraguan victims of the Contras.

For three decades, ARA-LA/PART and its journal, ***Turning The Tide***, has continued providing an outlet for the voices of prisoners and liberation movements, gathered and shared intelligence about fascist forces operating from above and below and how to fight them, campaigned to free all political prisoners, supported the CA prison hunger strikers, and more. TTT was one of the first publications to print the commentaries of Mumia Abu-Jamal. TTT has been sent free to thousands of prisoners over the years, currently to nearly 1700 almost every issue. ARA-LA/PART promoted International Human Rights Day actions for many years on Dec. 10, including co-sponsoring a march and rally on Dec. 10, 2001 demanding the US get out of Afghanistan, and has been part of too many coalitions for peace, justice and equality to list. On Saturday, February 11, ARA-LA/PART will celebrate its 30th anniversary year since its 1987 founding (and coincidentally the 70th birthday of founder Michael Novick) with a cultural/political commemoration at the Peace Center, 3916 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City 90230 (between Washington Place and Venice Blvd; free parking in rear, dial 22 for entry). A $20 donation is requested to benefit continued publication of ***Turning The Tide: A Journal of Inter-communal Solidarity.***

For more information, call 323-636-7388
or email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com.

An American in Syria: Anti-Fascist Struggle for Communal Society in the Ruins

https://shadowproof.com/2016/12/06/american-syria-ypg-communal-society-ruins/ (excerpts)

The young US florist now working in Raqqa, Syria, as a volunteer with the People's Defense Units, or YPG, is known to most on Twitter as PissPigGranddad.

For nearly two months, and when he's had cell or internet service, he's taken to Twitter and updated his timeline with candid shots of himself holding puppies, sheepishly grinning while armed with an AK-47, and joking with his followers about his looks.

I spoke to him through a series of texts about why he's in fighting with the YPG, how he got to Raqqa, and how his family is dealing with his absence. His name is redacted for obvious safety reasons.

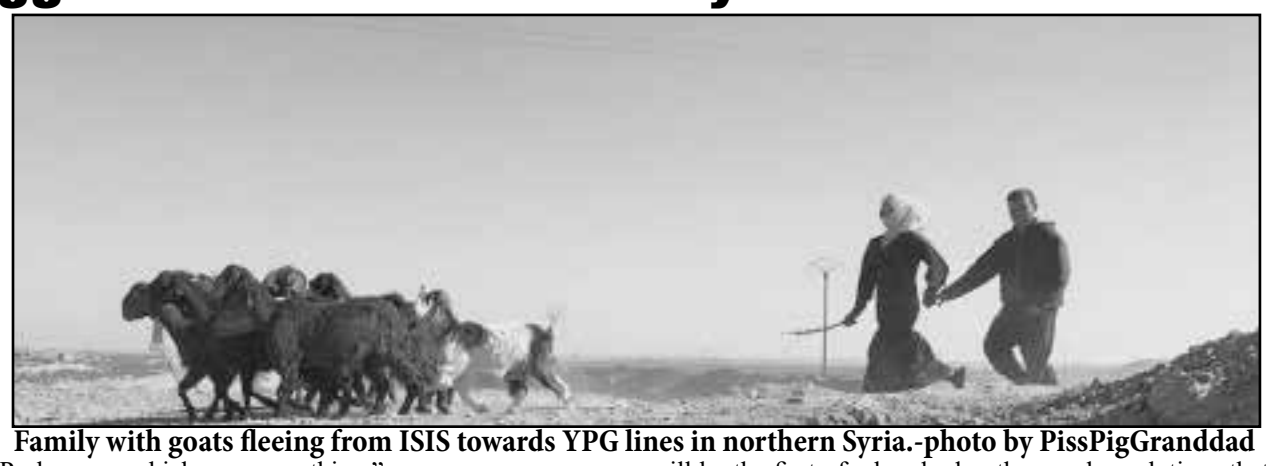
"I'm here for a few reasons. First of all, I believe in the struggle, as cornball as that is to say (for dipshits like me being sincere at all takes tremendous effort). The struggle is, for those who don't know, many-sided and an uphill battle, but if the Kurds are good at one thing it's fighting people on fucking hills."

"Anyways, our enemies are as follows: ISIS, Islamists in the FSA and a certain lunatic jacking off to Ataturk-Islamist fan fiction in Ankara. The struggle is more than just violence against fascists; it's to implement Democratic Confederalism in Northern Syria."

"That is specifically our struggle, if other armed groups with extremely similar ideologies and great pants wish to do the same in the immediate regions then of course that is merely coincidence. I can talk more about Democratic Confederalism later as well, but in short it is a left-wing ideology that I, as a Communist, am willing to help to implement."

"War is the crucible for revolution, and as all of Syria is in turmoil we will create a new and just society from the rubble. Durruti said something like, "We have always lived in slums and holes in the wall…we are not least afraid of ruins; we are going to inherit the Earth," and anyways, that's why I'm here, to struggle with comrades for a communal society in the ruins."

"Unfortunately there's not that many Americans here, and the majority of those here aren't political. There's a few vets here, many who had positive experiences with the Party and with Kurds/Yezidis during their deployments in Iraq. All of them I've met were anti-Iraq War and usually rather bitter towards a government that fucked them every way they could be fucked. They were here and not in the Peshmerga, which says something."



Family with goats fleeing from ISIS towards YPG lines in northern Syria.-photo by PissPigGranddad

"Of course, you have glory seekers, dogs that come over here and slobber all over the country taking pictures of themselves near dead bodies and such. They're universally hated, by politicals and veterans alike."

"The main source of volunteers has been Europe; at the Academy where I was trained, we had a lot of rambunctious Italian anarchists, all covered in scars from street fighting with fascists. There are a lot, and I mean a goddam u-boats worth of Germans. Anarchists and Apoists mostly."

"Met a French Communist, and the good men of the Bob Crow Brigade are holding the red flag high here as well. I haven't killed anyone in ISIS or anyone at all yet. Of course I'm fully prepared to do so, my god who wouldn't be! But fighting is only part of a revolutionary's duty."

"We will of course smash ISIS, and I will of course be a part of that (if you notice I'm being vague here it's because I'm a bit leery of arrest). I am attached to a mobile heavy weapons unit right now, but I'll be transferring out of here soon. It's a mistake to think that all we do is fight; in fact, most of what we do is ideological."

"The Party functions differently than the rest of society, we're modeled on Democratic Centralism (in fact I've heard good old Lenin quoted a few times re: our organization). There are meetings, self-criticism sessions, regular criticism sessions, lectures about how we must kill the man within ourselves…the point is to change, it's to create revolution everywhere, internally and externally, in the heart and in the mind as well as on the street."

"There are many of us, who have no possessions, just their uniform. We share in all duties. There are no salutes, no titles yet this is organized, we are not living in some free-for-all."

"Listen, the fight at home is hard. I live in San Francisco so I'm at the bottom, licking a drain in circles, and god it's awful but we still struggle for housing and for tenants' rights and against the police."

"I had this opportunity to come, an opportunity everyone has, really, so I took it. I want to see what Revolution is like, what the possibilities are, how we can make new worlds. This is a new synthesis being made here, 'new realities' to quote that famous leftist Dick Cheney. I have to be a part of it! I mean it was like my gut was drawing me here, I can't explain it or I sound crazy. I've tried to! Believe me, I've tried, to my friends and my family and the woman I love. It was hard to explain it to her, but we share the same principles so of course in many ways she understands."

"But, to be clear, I booked a flight over, I came over because I was desperate to participate in what inshallah will be the first of a hundred, a thousand revolutions that will shake this world."

"Anyways, I always knew I needed to come. The fighters want a lot of different things. Some want to die, I guess. Lots of PTSD, and I'd wager some of the boys want a double dose or a permanent cure. Others want revolution; not only here, but in Italy, Spain, America. We've got a Chinese comrade here, a Marxist, who wants it."

"Of course, we're optimistic, sometimes cynical, but a Leftist has to be optimistic! We're demanding the entire world—what could be more optimistic than that? I'm 27 years old, a true idiot's age."

"I worked at a boxing gym in California, but I've been a male florist for almost ten years and besides holding a pistol in the name of progress that's my main calling."

"On the other hand, the Kurds and Arabs here have been incredibly receptive. They have comrades throughout the world, of all nationalities, and though there have been nationalist currents in the Party history, they see themselves as part of an internationalist left."

"They've been more than receptive, and they honor the foreign dead as they do their own. It's not just propaganda,

Fallen US comrade Robin Agiri, killed in Raqqa

they really are more than glad to have foreigners helping them. Especially as they see themselves as having been isolated politically and geographically for so long."

"There's been no animosity, just a common understanding that we must struggle for a better world and of course must smash or convince all those who would stand in the way of a just society."

"It's allowed because they invite it, essentially. I don't want to impose, in fact, I refuse to, but they'd be overjoyed if ten, a hundred, a thousand Western socialists of any stripe came here to oppose the many fascist enemies we face."

"Also, women don't have to follow military orders from men, which is both amazing and terrifying."

No Donald Trump,

What does Trump's election teach us about the nature of the US? How should those concerned about justice, peace, equality, freedom and the environment respond? What can we expect from his regime, reinforced by Republican dominance across the board?

In two of the last five presidential elections, the candidate with the plurality was defeated. If this hasn't shaken the illusion that the US is a democracy, it's hard to say what will. The Trifecta of a federal system, (always based on voter suppression designed to stabilize a continental empire) along with a society founded on white settler colonialism, and a corporate-dominated media focused on personalities, required no conspiracy to ensure a "choice" between a demagogic, racist, sexist pseudo-populist and a neo-liberal/neo-conservative hawk who tacked right as soon as she escaped the primaries.

Hillary Clinton's victory in the Democratic primaries and Trump's triumph in the general election manifest the weakness of a genuine left in the US. We get amoral sociopaths, mass murderers and vain bullies in the White House because genuine, self-sacrificing, transformational leaders like Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Assata Shakur, Oscar Lopez Rivera and Chelsea Manning are locked up or in exile thanks to COINTELPRO (an FBI-led domestic war against the Black Panther Party, the American Indian Movement, Chicano-Mexicano struggle, and Puerto Rican independentistas) and the domestic counter-insurgency police state it birthed parallel to the global national security state.

The record of immigrant-bashing, Muslim scapegoating, criminalizing of Black resistance, misogyny and encouragement of violence that marked Trump's campaign, and the immediate incorporation of so-called "alt-right" white nationalists and corporate figures into his upcoming administration are clear. We must understand the underlying white supremacy, land theft, slavery and genocide, that predisposed large sectors to respond to white nationalist appeals.

We must identify wedge issues that will crack into and smash up the cross-class white nationalist alliance that has always undergirded the US empire. The right can mobilize support by identifying "un-American" ideologies and scapegoats as the enemy because the left won't identify and oppose a real enemy, a ruling class and imperial system with whom colonized, oppressed and exploited people have an irreconcilable contradiction.

The specter of US fascism didn't arise with Trump. Fascism's methods of rule and profit-production -- slave labor, genocide, incorporation of a mass base through appeals to racial nationalism and militarism -- are the same ones used to build the Empire and enforce settler colonial rule over indigenous, Asian/Pacific Islanders and African-descent people. The latest struggles over the theft of Native lands, such as DAPL in North Dakota, indicate the reality of this system since Europeans arrived, but also the indomitable resistance that should inspire us all. So too the Movement for Black Lives against

DAPL EASEMENT DENIED, BUT THE FIGHT'S NOT OVER

http://sacredstonecamp.org/blog/2016/12/2/obama-administration-denies-final-easement-whats-next

On Dec. 5, the Obama Administration announced that the US Army Corps would not grant Dakota Access LLC the last remaining easement it needs to drill under the Missouri River at Lake Oahe and complete construction of the pipeline. The US Army Corps statement implies they will conduct a limited Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the river crossing and explore possibilities for alternative routes.

The Obama Administration's decision comes as thousands of veterans are arriving from across the country to stand with the water protectors and join the frontlines of resistance in the face of extreme and escalating violence at the hands of law enforcement.

While this is clearly a victory, the battle is not "over." A response statement from Energy Transfer Partners and Sunoco Logistics said the corporations remain "fully committed to ensuring that this vital project is brought to completion and fully expect to complete construction of the pipeline without any additional rerouting in and around Lake Oahe. Nothing this Administration has done today changes that in any way."

The Trump administration could easily approve the project early next year. The Obama Administration has never guaranteed the water protectors or the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe that they would use force to stop Dakota Access from drilling under the river without a permit, if necessary. The Army Corps has not yet agreed to pursue a full EIS for the entire length of the pipeline.

Organizers continue to call for every day of December to be "a day of #NoDAPL action" against the investors of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Over 100 solidarity actions worldwide have already been registered for the coming weeks as the encampment continues to stand their ground.

Tara Houska, National Campaigns Director of Honor the Earth says, "The original peoples of these lands fought with all of our hearts against injustice and won. We have been maced, tased, demeaned, hit with water cannons in below freezing temperatures, we stand with the strength of our ancestors before us. The inaction from the administration and media was answered by our refusal to back down. Let this send a message around the world: we are still here. We are empowered. We are not sacrifice zones. Mni wiconi, water is life."

Eryn Wise of the International Indigenous Youth Council says, "We've been fighting this fight our whole lives and now there is no doubt in our minds that our generation can change the future. We know that the next presidency stands to jeopardize our work but we are by no means backing down. We will continue protecting everywhere we go and we will continue to stand for all our relations. We say Lila wopila to everyone who has supported the resurgence of indigenous nations. This is just the beginning."

Dallas Goldtooth of the Indigenous Environmental Network says, "Today, the Obama Administration has told us they are not granting the final easement for the Dakota Access Pipeline. This is not just an amazing victory for Standing Rock and the Oceti Sakowin -- but also for the many other Tribal Nations, grassroots Indigenous communities and millions of Americans around the country who have stood in solidarity with us here in person, at rallies around the country, and through phone calls and letters. This is a victory for organizing, and it doesn't stop now. We are asking our supporters to keep up the pressure, because while President Obama has granted us a victory today, that victory isn't guaranteed in the next administration. More threats are likely in the year to come, and we cannot stop until this pipeline is completely and utterly defeated, and our water and climate are safe."

LaDonna Allard, Director of the Sacred Stone Camp, says, "I was asked, "When do you consider this pipeline issue to be over?" I said, when every pipe is out of the ground and the earth is repaired across the United States. I am not negotiating, I am got backing down. I must stand for our grandchildren and for the water."

Livestream image of Sacred Stone Camp

HERE ARE THE 10 QUESTIONS WE NEED TO BE ASKING IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS AHEAD:

1. Will the Army Corps actually conduct an Environmental Impact Statement? If so, on what portion of the project - just the river crossing, or the whole pipeline?

2. What issues will the EIS take into account? (for example, will it include an analysis of spill risk? how about sacred sites? will it reassess the economic need for the pipeline now that the Bakken is busting?)

3. Which alternative routes will be considered? Will a "no-build" option also be considered?

4. How long will the EIS take?

5. What input will the tribe have? What will the public participation process look like?

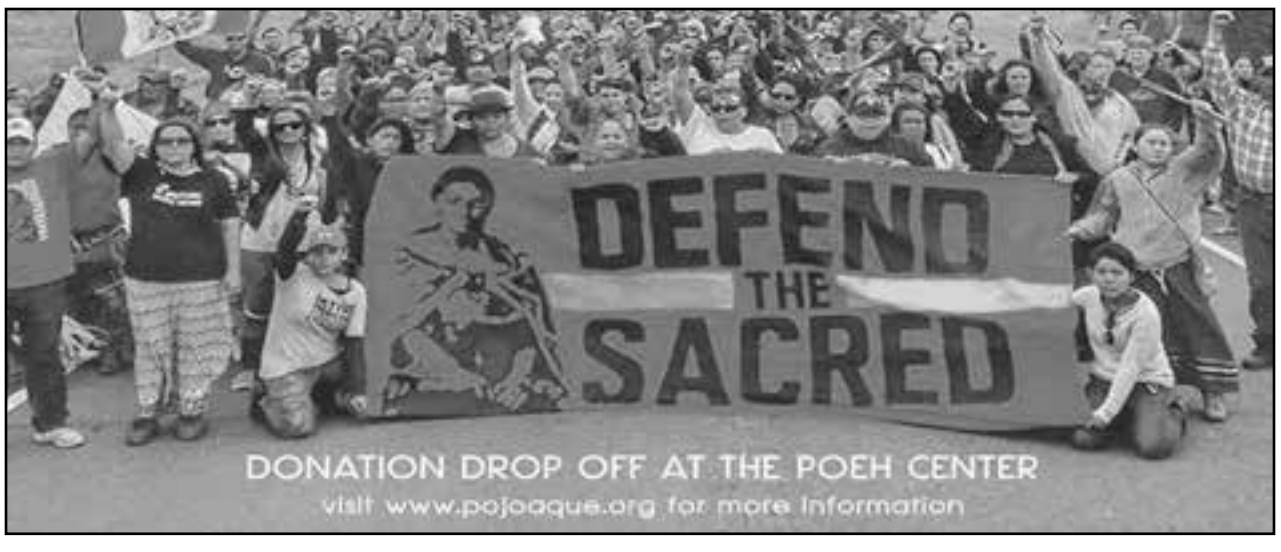
6. In what way(s) was the original Environmental Assessment prepared by the Army Corps deemed inadequate?

7. What was the result of the tribal consultation process exploring possible changes to the regulatory process for pipelines in general? Have any changes been proposed?

8. How easily will these decisions be reversed by a Trump administration?

9. How will these decisions be affected by the outcomes of DAPL's lawsuit against the Army Corps, scheduled to be heard on Friday?

10. Is the US government prepared to use force, if necessary, to stop the company from drilling under the river without a permit?



No KKK, No Fascist USA!

racialized patriarchal capitalist state violence and the prisoners' strike against slave labor.

Part of the "whitelash" against "political correctness" that fueled a lot of Trump's support is due not only to a sense of grievance at lost privilege, but to resentment of holier-than-thou hypocritical 'limousine liberalism.' A liberatory left needs to distinguish itself from corporate liberalism and capitalism in general, not just neo-liberalism. To begin to crack into the white "herrenvolk" democracy that enables underemployed working people to identify with Trump because he eats Wendy's on his plane, we must be a self-critical movement.

Black liberation, Native sovereignty and other anti-colonial struggles have always been a pole of attraction for some people of European descent. We must extend that by rebuilding the internationalist anti-globalization movement of the late 90s -- which has shown its power again by stalling the TPP -- sharpening an anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist environmental consciousness, and identifying the common interests of working people here and around the world in creating a new economic system and way of life. This requires directly confronting, if necessary physically, forces of racism and reaction inside and outside the state. Anti-colonial class struggle has divided people in Brazil, Venezuela, and South Africa -- it will certainly do so here in the settler colonial superpower that bottom lines reaction all over the world.

In the 1960s and 70s, many white radicals moved to working class white neighborhoods and suburbs, and entered factories. Others set up GI coffeehouses outside military bases and otherwise connected with the growing anti-imperialism of 'grunts' and conscripts. At the same time, many young white workers, Appalachian refugees to northern cities, and other working class people of European descent were being radicalized by contact with Black Panthers and revolutionary Black workers. That development was truncated and reversed by COINTELPRO. Today, there is a pressing need to revive that process of proletarianization and radical transformation.

Competing with the so-called alt-right, open and covert nazis and avowed white supremacists for the hearts and minds of a significant element of the aggrieved white working and rural people who turned to Trump will involve strengthening our capacity for self-defense. On January 20, there is a national mobilization to DC to oppose and disrupt Trump's white nationalism and the plans of the KKK and other white-power supporters to celebrate his victory. But that effort needs to be generalized, extended and deepened all across the country. Trump is a bully (and therefore a coward) -- he attacks those he thinks weak and defenseless; that's why he's so inspirational to nightriders of the KKK, boneheads and alt-right. Standing up to them will demonstrate that they have no guts, no heart and no brains and is essential to winning away those they seek to organize or intimidate.

http://ara-la.tumblr.com/post/153484454515/no-presidentchump-no-kkk-no-fascist-usa

(Reprinted from Change Links, Dec. 2016)

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★ Jan. 25-Change-Links planning 11:30am; KPFK LSB election mtg 1PM both at Peace Center, 3916 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City

★ Jan.-Mar.-100X100 Fundraising Campaign for TTT gofundme.com/eugzgg

★ February - Black History Month, KPFK on-air fund drive - become a member

★ March - Women's History/Herstory Month; Pacifica elections scheduled to begin

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A JOURNAL OF INTER-COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY

TURNING THE TIDE

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BLOWS AGAINST THE EMPIRE!

SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST RACIST MURDER IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT!

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Militarized Police Counter-Insurgency Must Be Met By a Protracted Peoples' Insurgency

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***

It's a new year, and perhaps a new day, in the struggle. Sustained and growing resistance to police murders with impunity, marked by creative and disruptive tactics led by a new generation of Black activists across the country, are an unexpected and overdue but welcome harbinger of a break with the politics of despair and defeatism that have gripped people in the U.S. for too long.

Beginning with the uprising in Ferguson and the eye-opening display of militarized police repression that greeted it, and continuing through the fall and into the dark, cold weeks of winter after grand juries in Missouri and New York refused to indict outrageous killer cops, protests have continued for months, some massive, such as the marches of tens of thousands in New York City and 4-5,000 for "Millions March L.A." (mostly Black people in their teens, 20s and 30s), some small, such as the OccupyLAPD vigil by Black Lives Matter L.A., some national in scope and participation, such as a convergence to Ferguson and St. Louis, MO.

And gratifyingly, there is no sign of stopping -- indeed, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day actions in dozens of cities across the country are being followed by a host of actions to mark the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on January 19. A specific and vocal rejection of the old guard pacifying self-appointed "leaders" has marked most of these efforts, not out of disrespect for their age but from a recognition that pacification and brokering of the masses' outrage for personal advancement is worse than pointless. There are a variety of programmatic and policy proposals being put forward, such as Community Control over the police through elected boards with the power to hire, fire and prosecute, to calls for demilitarization of the police and repurposing of spending on law enforcement and "criminal justice" programs to meet community needs for social and economic integration and development.

At the same time, other elements within the Black liberation struggle, such as the Black Riders, are speaking out about the need for self-defense if anything is to change, recognizing that the problem of racist police murders is not one of the police alone, but is rooted in the larger conditions of oppression and exploitation, of colonialism and capitalism, that the police are hired to enforce. There is a clear and growing recognition that the issue is not one of a "few bad apples," or police "misconduct."

It is the conduct of police and policing, the charge they are given by the political and economic elite and elected officials, the function they fulfill as an occupying army in communities of color and as an internal border guard in more privileged areas, that is coming into question. The slogan "Black Lives Matter," asserted and defended, has made a lasting impact on the assumptions of white supremacy and unexamined privilege, even within the so-called white left and progressive movement.

Neither the color of the skin nor the content of the character of individual police officers stands as a barrier against the role of the police as an instrument to protect and serve wealth, white supremacy and the empire.

"Good cop" and "bad cop" is a tactic of police interrogation, a role play used to break down the resistance of "suspects," to get them to waive their right to silence, try to cut a deal and snitch on each other. It is not a matter of separating the "good cops" from the "bad" ones. Neither the color of the skin nor the content of the character of individual police officers or even chiefs stands as an effective barrier against the role of the police, sheriffs, prison guards, private cops, and the rest of the garrison state apparatus as an instrument to protect and serve wealth, white supremacy and the empire.

They form a "domestic" army whose militarization parallels that of the globally-deployed troops of the US as gendarmes enforcing US domination in 170 countries, or the Border Patrol whose operations extend hundreds of miles inland from the militarily imposed borders and to the environs of every international airport in the US (including Alaska and Hawaii, indigenous areas and nations appended illegitimately to the US).

Many are familiar with the roots of policing in the US in slave patrols, and many date the establishment of formal urban police agencies to the need to suppress the early industrial working class. Fewer are aware that one of the first policing agencies in the current US, established initially as a vigilante operation by settlers, were the Texas, Arizona and California Rangers in the territories conquered from Mexico as the US sought to expand slavery and carry out its "manifest (white supremacist) destiny" to rule the continent "from sea to shining sea." The role of the police later was based on the imperial state taking on the powers previously exercised by the plantation owners and ranchers and their hired hands.

Their use against European immigrant workers was a double-edged sword, reflected by the incorporation of immigrant ethnics into the new "white" nation -- including particularly into the ranks of law enforcement. Part of how "the Irish became white" is how the Irish became cops (and the same is true for Italians, Jews and other immigrants grudgingly admitted to the ranks of "whiteness").

George Jackson prophetically taught that "reform" is the new name for fascism. The reforms proposed as a solution by Barack Obama -- police body-cams and community policing -- only intensify the problem. As the ***Stop LAPD Spying Coalition*** has pointed out, body-cams on cops serve as another modality for police spying, along with drones, a panoply of street cameras, and license-plate readers that take photos of every parked or moving vehicle the cops pass. Dashboard cameras in L.A. squad cars are routinely disabled; the body cameras will be used mainly for intelligence gathering and evidentiary purposes against activists, protesters, alleged gang members and anyone considered a "threat" by the police.

Community policing is even worse. It is a strategy of counter-insurgency, specifically described by its advocates in the professional journals of the policing "profession" as the "domestic equivalent of psychological operations [PSYOPS] in the military," designed to "control the thinking of the population or the enemy." Whether you are considered "population" or "enemy" depends on your passivity in the face of police paramilitary operations. It is not an antidote to, but an expression of, the militarization of the police, just as much as the weaponry and the drones. Thankfully, we are beginning to see mass understanding of and resistance to this.

Cop-watching and "watch-a-pig" programs are primarily effective, not in the change observation makes in police behavior -- the brutal actions of cops against people who video tape them, as well as the video taped killings of Oscar Grant in Oakland, Kelly Thomas in Fullerton and Eric Garner in New York, make clear that the cops have no shame and no fear of exposure. That's because of the guarantee of impunity they have received from the civil authorities, who make sure that criminal prosecution in the few cases it is forced on them results in a slap on the wrist at worst, and that civil liabilities penalties are treated as a "cost of doing business" for the city and state, and no individual cop has to pay.

'Community policing' is counter-insurgency described by its advocates as the "domestic equivalent of psychological operations [PSYOPS] in the military."

No, the point of cop-watching and "Watch-a-pig" patrols is the impact they have on the behavior and consciousness of the people in the community, the growing recognition that people have to move beyond fear, and to come out and observe, not hide away, when the police are in action outside their homes, shops or laundromats. People have learned that the worst thing you can do in a mental health crisis or domestic dispute is to call the cops, and the community must begin to take responsibility for its own harmony, defense and collective interests.

There is also a growing awareness that police killings are the tip of the iceberg not only of racial profiling and stops, but of the constant criminalization of Black and Brown people who are confined in massive numbers, as a means of social control as well as a profit center, in the prisons, jails and detention centers of the carceral state.

If there is increasing awareness of the role of militarized police in counter-insurgency, there still needs to be a greater awareness of and strategy for building a popular insurgency capable of sustaining itself against such operations and eventually prevailing. The idea that the police are an occupying army is not merely a rhetorical flourish, but a recognition that the imperial system is in a continuing state of war against the people it colonizes, exploits and oppressed.

We need to begin to act more clearly on that understanding and devise strategies for decolonization and self-determination. How concretely can we best undermine the legitimacy of the oppressive institutions of domination that have us in their grip, and increase the effective power of the people to meet our needs, shape our own destiny and take the political initiative on the path to liberation?

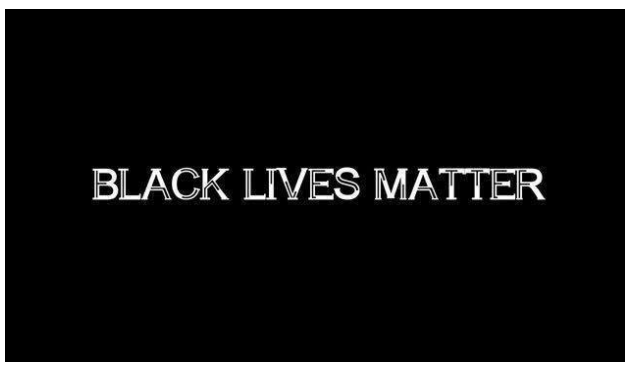
There needs to be a strategy for building a popular insurgency capable of sustaining itself and eventually prevailing.

Consider that this is 2015, half-way through the second decade of the 21st Century, with clear evidence that the rule of the Empire is threatening not only individual communities and colonized people, but the very fabric of the eco-systems that sustain human and other life. Are we closer to overturning that system and replacing it with one that will meet basic human needs in a way that can be carried out in harmony with the biosphere and other living beings on the planet?

Do we have a plan or project that will chart the way forward so that in five years time, by 2020, we can see the forces of racism, repression, and exploitation on the run, or at least clearly on the defensive, and the powers and capacity of the peoples' forces on the rise, or at least clearly on a strategic offensive? What organizational forms are needed to carry out such a plan if we develop it?

Do we really understand that the corporate Empire state has agents working around the clock, on police forces, in the military, at the NSA and in corporate enterprises, devising stratagems for blunting and reversing the current popular offensives and resistance? Can we figure out how to turn their own initiatives against them and to our advantage? How can we develop the popular will and power to enforce decolonization, demilitarization, decriminalization, decarceration, decentralization and economic democratization?

There are no easy or fore-ordained answers to those questions, though there are lessons that may be learned from the study of past and current revolutionaries, liberationists and freedom fighters in the US and internationally. But they must be tested in practice under today's conditions and circumstances, and then honed and corrected through criticism, self-criticism and above all through accountability to the communities and masses who have the power to make and shape history.



The current upsurge of resistance to police murders and impunity is an exciting crucible in which to sharpen such analyses and build people's power. It must not be wasted, as so many previous opportunities and advances have been. The need for principled practical unity, and for undogmatic, unselfish political struggle and analysis, has never been greater. We invite people to use the pages of ***Turning the Tide*** as one vehicle among many for advancing those processes.

Why We Can't Breathe

[col. writ. 12 / 15/14] © 2014 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

The demands and voices of protest are raised across America, voices of men and women, of children even, voices of rage, voices of hope, and voices of deep, mass discontent.

These voices, as anguished as they are insistent, are voices of a generation that has been largely silent in the public square. Only through their poets and rappers have their voices been heard, but even then, commercial interests intruded, changing righteous rage into clever rhymes.

Art not imitating life, but sending it down a street it had not intended. Now, an awful truth emerges, out of the sweet mouths of the youth: "We Can't Breathe!" they shout.

Why not?
Because, in the richest country on earth, poverty pitches pennies on the street corner, hoping, against hope, to hit.
Because a simple education is beyond the ability of the neo-liberal state to provide.
Because today's school is tomorrow's prison, and a place where hatred and humiliation live, not knowledge; under the ridiculous rubric of No Child Left Behind.

Because, for too many children, childhood is but an illusion, as it was for Tamir Rice, a 12-year old boy, doing what boys have been doing for over a century: playing with a toy guy, becomes a death sentence.

Because every hand and every face is turned against them, as futures are as bleak as lunar landscapes.

"We Can't Breathe!" they howl.
But we can't hear them.

The neo-liberal state is too busy, choking them to death.
_(c) '14maj

Mumia Abu-Jamal

Samiya "Goldii" Abdullah, a daughter of Wadiya Jamal and Mumia Abu-Jamal died on December 17, 2014 after years of battle with breast cancer. Samiya would have been 37 this January 9 and is survived by two young daughters, Aiyanah and Aaiyah, affectionately known as Dolly and Puddy, ages eleven and four.

Samiya was a remarkable woman. She was accomplished as a musician, an activist and rapper on social justice, particularly in the struggle for Mumia's freedom. She devoured books and education. During her long, often debilitating illness, Samiya finished her Masters Degree in School and Mental Health Counseling from the University of Pennsylvania with honors. She was dedicated to her young daughters and wanted them to grow up loving each other as much as she did her brothers and sisters. And she wanted her daughters to see Mumia (called "Pop Pop" by them) walk out of prison and home with their grandmother, Wadiya.

Samiya's active fight for Mumia's freedom, began at the young age of four. Mumia wrote about this in "The Visit" printed in Live from Death Row in 1994. This was recreated in the movie "Mumia: Long Distance Revolutionary."

Samiya's strength, character and spirit were nurtured by Wadiya and Mumia and are being passed on to her daughters.

On behalf of Wadiya Jamal and Mumia Abu-Jamal, this is a request for funds to assist Wadiya for care of her granddaughters, Dolly and Puddy.

A financial contribution of any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Please send checks or money orders, made payable to Wadiya Jamal:

Wadiya Jamal
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Beyond Rotten Apples and Broken Windows

© Mumía Abú-Jamal 12-7-2014

Las manifestaciones masivas que sacuden de costa a costa los Estados Unidos son reflexiones ruidosas y visibles de la profunda rabia y rechazo de la larga y sangrienta historia del terrorismo policiaco.

Si has leído mis escritos o escuchado mis comentarios radiales, tu sabes que yo describo la violencia policial por lo que es: terrorismo, y no "brutalidad".

Porque el interés de toda violencia policial es infundir terror en las poblaciones Negras, justo como era la intención de los terroristas Blancos del pasado, como el Ku Klux Klan, que linchaba a los Negros; hombre, mujeres y niños --Si. ¡Niños!

Y aún cuando estas protestas de los jóvenes a lo largo y ancho del país son remarcables, debemos recordar que la violencia policial contra las comunidades Afro-Norteamericanas no es nada nuevo.

Fue el 4 de diciembre de 1969 – hace 45 años, cuando policías entraron sigilosamente al edificio de departamentos de la Calle Monroe donde vivían jóvenes del Partido de las Panteras Negras, incluído el Vice-Presidente Fred Hampton, de Chicago. Allí, policías, armados con ametralladoras, dispararon contra el Capitán Mark Clark, de Peoria, Illinois, y contra el Vice-Presidente Fred Hampton, mientras dormía en su cama junto a su esposa que estaba esperando un bebé. Ambos, Mark y Fred fueron asesinados; por lo menos otros 7 Panteras Negras fueron heridos por el fuego de los disparos de la policía – todos mientras dormían en sus camas.

Ningún policía fue jamás acusado por estos crímenes o de estos intentos de asesinato y de asaltos graves contra miembros del Partido de las Panteras Negras de Illinois.

La próxima primavera marcará el 30th aniversario del bombardeo de MOVE – donde policías tiraron bombas de un helicóptero; y mataron 11 hombres, mujeres y niños – todos miembros y familiares del grupo de Naturalistas Negros, MOVE.

Once seres humanos quemados vivos y/o matados a tiros – y 2 manzanas de la ciudad de Filadelfia hechas ladrillos rojo brillantes y cenizas candentes. Y, otra vez, ningún policía fue jamás acusado de nada. Solo Ramona África, única sobreviviente del ataque contra MOVE, sería metida a la cárcel por 7 años -- acusada de ¡motín!

El movimiento para protestar el terrorismo de la policía es algo remarcable, pero en verdad no comenzó ayer.

El terrorismo de la policía lleva ya varias décadas, y no es sobre "manzanas podridas" o "ventanas rotas". Es sobre el bloqueo de los movimientos populares que demandan libertad; y la protección del presente sistema de represión.

--©'14maj

Traducción libre del inglés enviado por Fatirah Aziz, Litestar01@aol.com, hecha en REFUGIO DEL RÍO GRANDE, Texas, EE.UU.

BEYOND "ROTTEN APPLES" & "BROKEN WINDOWS"

[col. writ. 12/7/14] © 2014 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

The massive demonstrations rocking U.S. cities from coast to coast are loud and visible reflections of the deep anger and antipathy rising up against the long and bloody train of police terrorism.

If you have read my writings or listened to my commentaries, you know that I describe the police violence as what it is: terrorism, not 'brutality.'

For the aim of all police violence is to instill terror in Black populations, just as was the aim of white terrorists of the past, like the Ku Klux Klan, which lynched Black men, women and yes- children.

And although these protests by young people across the country are remarkable, we must remember that cop violence against African American communities ain't a new thing.

It was Dec.4, 1969 – 45 years ago, when cops raided the Monroe Street apartment building of young Black Panthers, including Deputy Chairman Fred Hampton, of Chicago. There, police, armed with submachine guns, shot Capt. Mark Clark, of Peoria, Illinois, and Deputy Chairman Fred Hampton, as he slept in his bed, next to his pregnant wife. Both Mark and Fred were killed; at least 7 other Panthers were wounded by police gunfire – as they lay in their beds.

Not a single cop was ever charged with these murders or these attempted murders and aggravated assaults on members of the Illinois Black Panther Party.

Next spring marks the 30th anniversary of the MOVE Bombing – where cops dropped bombs from a helicopter, and killed 11 men, women and children – members and relatives of the Black Naturalist group, MOVE.

Eleven people burned and/or shot to death – and 2 city blocks in Philadelphia turned to glowing red bricks and ashes. And again, not a single cop ever even charged with anything. Only MOVE survivor, Ramona Africa would ever get to prison – for Riot! 7 years.

The movement protesting police terrorism is a remarkable thing; but it didn't begin yesterday.

Police terrorism is decades long, and it ain't about 'rotten apples' nor 'broken windows'. It's about blocking a popular freedom movement, and protecting a system of repression.

--©'14maj

On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide

You can find archives of ***Turning the Tide*** at **www.antiracist.org** that go back more than seven years, plus back issues of the ***Black Rider African Intercommunal News Service***.
In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as facebook.com/tideturning, and facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity. You can follow @ara_losangeles on Twitter, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at ara-la.tumblr.com.

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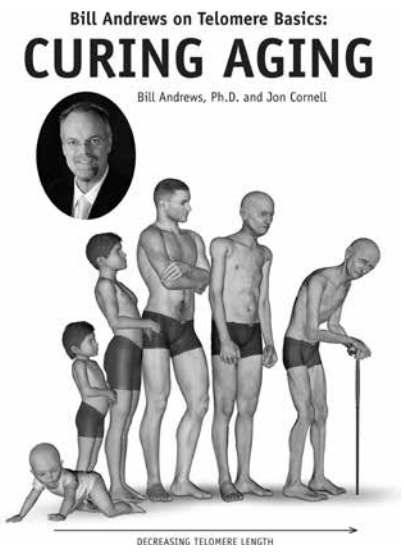

"In my 40 years of clinical experience, I've never seen or experienced anything like it ... It appears to be truly the breakthrough into a new era. Brilliant. This addresses the rebuilding of the foundation of our physical existence." -Dr. Gabriel Cousens, MD, MD(H), N.D., D.D.
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Brazilian Landless Rural Workers Movement (MST) Sending a Delegation to US

by Rebecca Tarlau, Los Angeles Friends of the MST

The Brazilian Landless Rural Workers Movement (*Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra*, or MST) is one of the largest agrarian reform movements in Latin America. Over the past 30 years, through occupations of privately and publicly owned landed estates, the MST has succeeded in forcing the government to redistribute land rights to approximately 350,000 previously landless families. Currently, tens of thousands of families are still occupying land across Brazil, waiting for their claim to this land to be officially sanctioned. In March of 2015, twenty-one of the leaders will arrive in the United States, for a year long exchange with dozens of grassroots organizations across the country. Here is some background information about the MST and this upcoming exchange.

Although the MST arose in the early 1980s, the movement is a product of 500 years of land concentration and landlessness in Brazil. These unequal relations date back to Portuguese colonialism in the early 1500s, when a system of land grants known as sesmarias divided up Brazil between twelve powerful Portuguese "captains," who could distribute large tracts of land to private interests and do what they wished with this land. After Brazilian independence, in 1822, this land was supposed to be returned to the Brazilian people, known as terra devoluta ("returned" land). However, through a process of land grabbing and the production of false land deeds—known as grilagem—rural elites ensured that they could maintain ownership over land.

Landlessness in Brazil is also a legacy of the slave trade, the largest slave trade in the Americas, primarily driven by the sugar cane economy. By the end of the sixteenth century, black slaves constituted almost seventy percent of the labor force on plantations in Brazil. Brazil was the second to last country in the Americas to end slavery, officially doing so only in 1888. Much of the slave-descendant population remains landless.

In 1850, a few decades before the end of slavery, a new land law was established, which finally made land available through purchase. However, rather than giving landless people access to land, this new land law facilitated the consolidation of large-scale properties, made it difficult for small landholders to purchase land, and also tightened restrictions on squatters. Land concentration continued to grow.

Beginning in the 1870s, the government also began to encourage immigration to Brazil, primarily from Germany and Italy, in order to populate and "whiten" the southern part of the country. While some of these immigrants were able to receive small plots of land, landlessness continued to be a norm throughout the country, even among these whiter European populations. The "agrarian problem"—land concentration, unproductive land estates, landless families—was mostly ignored by the government.

Nonetheless, the first half of the twentieth century was a period of intense rural resistance. In the late 1940s and 1950s, the countryside was mobilized, with peasant leagues and other rural groups pressuring the government for agrarian reform. In the early 1960s it looked like the Brazilian government might actually be forced to implement a large-scale redistribution of land to poor, rural populations. However, instead, this resistance led to a military coup, supported by the United States, and a military dictatorship that held power in Brazil for the next two decades. People were killed, many others were exiled, the constitution was annulled, and almost all political organizing went underground.

With the military dictatorship came intense economic growth, what was referred to as an "economic miracle." Between 1968 and 1974 the economy grew at an average yearly rate of 10 to 11 percent, and by the mid-1970's the volume of exports had quadrupled. But, growth for whom? While in 1960 the richest ten percent only had 39.6 percent of the national income, in 1980 this ten percent had 50.9 percent. In other words, this "economic miracle" succeeded not in lifting people out of poverty, but increasing the divide between rich and poor.

Meanwhile, in rural areas, the military dictatorship implemented a large-scale program of "agricultural modernization," know as the green revolution. However, the green revolution simply meant more monoculture production with intensive use of pesticides, and consequently, high levels of environmental degradation. Currently Brazilians consume the highest quantity of pesticides in the world, with serious health implications. As for the people living in these rural areas, these populations were pushed off of their land, little by little. In 1940 less than 32 percent of the population lived in cities, but by 1991 seventy-five percent of the Brazilian population was urban. This rural population began moving to the urban slums, known as favelas in Portuguese.

In the mid-1970s there was finally a move away from repression to a more democratic rule. This is when the labor movement began to become more oppositional and militant, and a new leader emerged who would eventually became president, Luis Inacio Lula da Silva. This was also the moment when the Brazilian Workers Party (PT) was founded, in 1980, as a new grassroots political party to represent the urban and rural populations that were beginning to mobilize again.

The Brazilian Landless Workers Movement (MST) emerged in this historical moment, along with the Workers Party (PT) and the Oppositional Labor Movement (CUT), to contest this history of unequal land distribution. The movement did not start as a united movement, but rather, dispersed attempts among landless rural laborers who were inspired by the progressive Catholic Church and Liberation Theology and decided to take the solution to poverty into their own hand and occupy these large unproductive land estates. The first land occupation associated with what became the MST occurred in 1979. Soon after, more land occupations began to occur. This tactic worked, and after camping out for several years, these landless workers began winning from the Brazilian government legal rights to farm on this land. In other words, land occupations were becoming successful, even at a time of military dictatorship.

In 1984, the participants in these dispersed occupations decided to come together and found a united, national movement, the MST. Although the Catholic Church, rural labor unions, communist party members, and other groups had played a major role in organizing the occupations that led to the founding of the MST, the families who comprised the movement wanted it to be an autonomous organization, not connected to the church, a labor union, or a political party. The slogan of the newly formed organization was "Land for those who live and work on it."

Over the past thirty years, the movement has grown to include 1.5 million women, men, and children, with 350,000 previously landless families that now have rights to land in Brazil. Partially, the success of the MST is due to a law that was put into the 1988 Brazilian constitution, which requires that land "serve a social function." The constitution also requires the Brazilian government to, "expropriate for the purpose of agrarian reform, rural property that is not performing its social function." Social function includes "rational and adequate use" of that land. This law has facilitated the expropriation of thousands of acres of land that were not being used productively, and therefore did not preform their social function. However, it is also critical to mention that in 2006 the GINI Index, which assesses land concentration, was still .872 percent, one of the highest ratios of land concentration in the world, and higher than it had been in 1996. This demonstrates that land concentration has been increasing in Brazil over the past two decades, despite these intense agrarian struggles.

Finally, it is also necessary to emphasize that although there have been many victories for the MST over the past three decades, the price of resistance is high. Since the country's re-democratization, 1,742 people have been killed due to agrarian conflicts, mostly peasant activists. Less than 3 percent of these cases were ever brought to trial. The biggest massacre of peasant activists occurred on April 17, 1996, and is an example of the impunity of the police in Brazil. In the state of Pará there was a march of 1,500 MST activists. At 4 PM, 155 state military police surrounded the MST and began to fire live ammunition from rifles and machine guns into the crowd. Nineteen MST activists were immediately killed, and 69 others wounded. In memory of these murders, April 17th has become an international Day of Peasant Resistance. In Brazil the entire month of April is known as "Red April," and every April the MST organizes hundreds of landless occupations across Brazil.

From March to December of 2015, up to 21 MST leaders will be in the US, working with grassroots organizations in five regions of the country. Five of these will be in Los Angles region for several months, contributing to and learning about political organizing in our LA context. Although the MST frequently sends "brigades" of MST leaders to other Global South countries, especially ones with left-leaning governments such as Cuba and Venezuela, or severe economic and political crises like Haiti and Palestine, the movement has never sent this type of brigade to the Global North. The LA Chapter of the "Friends of the MST" national solidarity organization is helping to facilitate this exchange. For the MST, the primary goals of the exchange are to learn English—as a tool to advance their political work—and to connect with grassroots groups to learn about the political and economic context for the working class in the United States. This is also a chance for U.S. organizations to learn about how this national movement of 1.5 million people has been able to organize itself and maintain its strength over the past thirty years.

Currently, the LA chapter of the Friends of the MST is in the process of identifying organizations and groups that are interested in either hosting an MST leader for several months, or organizing day-long events and exchanges with the movement leaders. We are also looking for affordable housing for these MST leaders, especially between March and July.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the MST-U.S. exchange in any capacity, please contact Becky Tarlau at becktar@gmail.com or Michael Novick at antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com. Viva a reforma agrária!

100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of Turning the Tide

Over its 26+ year publishing history, ***TTT*** has been published in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we print four 8-page issues a year. Now, to restore bi-monthly publication, we have launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed **"100X100."**

We are looking for one hundred people who will donate $100 a year, or $10/mo, to make it possible for ***TTT*** to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing nearly 2000 copies of each issue into the prisons. You can donate online at http://gofundme.com/eugzgg.

Turning the Tide doesn't print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps; their contribution more often comes by writing articles, letters and poems or sending in drawings. Often, they pass the copy of ***TTT*** that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners.**Prisoners, if you can find donors or subscribers outside prison to subsidize your sub, that would help a lot**.

If you'd like to see ***Turning the Tide*** more frequently, if you want to contribute to breaking down the walls of isolation and separation imposed by the prison system, please contribute. If you can't manage $100 all at once, you could donate $10 a month. But any donation you make can help. Postage costs for a single issue of TTT are almost $1000 and climbing. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, Twitter followers, and email contacts. Everything helps.

If the campaign is successful, we will begin publishing every other month in 2015. Postage is our biggest expense. Nobody gets paid at ***TTT.*** But the Postal Service is not so generous. We have a handful of people who are sustainers, making a monthly donation, a larger number of people who subscribe once a year or so. Right now, we are at 10% of our goal. LA supporters could set up house meetings, where the editor will pitch to your friends for support. The future of ***Turning the Tide*** is in your hands. Now, while you're thinking about it, go to:

http://gofundme.com/eugzgg

and donate. Then share it with your contacts. With your help, ***Turning the Tide*** can step up to the "urgency of now" -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, colonialism, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible.

If you think ***TTT*** is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to **Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.**

RULES OF DISCIPLINE:

GUIDELINES OF DISCIPLINE FOR EVERY COMRADE IN THE BLACK RIDERS LIBERATION PARTY

Discipline is very necessary, if our objective is to be achieved. If revolutionary afrikan inter-communalists followed and adhered to strict self discipline, rules would not be necessary. So to safeguard and advance Revolutionary Afrikan Inter-communalism, each comrade is responsible to him/her self and the global liberation front for maintaining and following the rules of discipline.

1) Each comrade is a potential leader and must at all times work toward obtaining those qualities that will make him/her the best and most efficient leader, learning when, where and how to take the initiative.

2) Each comrade must develop and maintain consistent study habits of the local/global political and socio-economic environment (any and all publications available: books, newspapers, and magazines that will help to give social consciousness), and all materials dealing with the science of struggle and the enemy.

3) Each comrade must be selfless; sharing and providing assistance to comrades with basic necessities and outside contacts if at all possible. Commendation and recognition is to be given for selfless acts. Taking undue advantage of comrades or black people must be disciplined.

4) Physical fitness is a must. Each comrade must maintain an exercise program. Group practice is desirable and if possible, should be systematic and punctual for cohesive effect.

5) Each comrade is to refrain from psychologically abusive and egotistical behavior; such as unnecessary loud talking, bragging and etc.

6) No comrade is to fear constructive criticism. Constructive criticism is a critical view or remark(s) backed by evaluation, knowledge, investigation, propriety, and concern.

7) Among comrades there shall be no egoism, vanity, intemperance, or intolerance. We understand that there are people with different religious views, but comrades who practice Afrikan i\Inter-communalism will always seek to persuade others to the correctness of the Black Riders Liberation Party.

8) Each comrade will diligently struggle to attain the goals, objectives, and general policies to their fullest capacities. They will always be mindful of the quality and quantity of their service, dedication and determination, and to always be willing to do what is required to bring an end to injustice, racism, police terrorism, black on black violent crime and global oppression.

9) Any comrade in violation of the rules must be disciplined according to the violation, and no punishment is to exceed the offense.

10) Each comrade must make an effort to teach non-members of the party suffering from lack of confidence and/or fear of the capitalist oppressor to over-come these obstacles. Educate to liberate is the motto for this purpose. To lead through the success of one's practice, leadership must be decisive; without sacrifice or participation in revolutionary activity, there is no leadership.

11) Every comrade with former "hood" or "tribal" connections should work day and night to be a positive revolutionary example to his or her homies. A comrade with street organizational ties should strive to educate their homies to the truth that it is real respect to be gained by riding on the real racist enemy instead of fighting other black people. If possible, this comrade should work on creating a cease fire between warring street formations involved in black on black violence. This comrade must be extremely politically educated and militant in order to facilitate improvised ways to accomplish this important job without backsliding into black on black violent crime and reactionary suicide.

12) Each cadre leader may establish additional rules in their environment to enhance the harmony in their area, keeping in mind the nature of human behavior, such as maintaining respect of female comrades, and the personal relationship between comrades. All additional rules must be reported and approved by the Central Committee of the Black Riders Liberation Party.

13) All information is disseminated on a need to know basis.

14) Under no condition will there be any fighting between comrades.

15) All comrades will show respect to all black people in word and actions.

16) All comrades should attempt to be polite and courteous to all people, regardless of race, creed, color or sexual orientation.

17) No comrade will place any material commodity above or before the Black Riders Liberation Party, the people, or the new black liberation movement.

18) No comrade will display or have an arrogant, disdainful, belittling or chauvinistic attitude.

19) No comrade is permitted to use, produce, distribute, process, fund, or take part in the sale of heroin, cocaine (in any form), LSD, or PCP. Nor will they take any type of pill for the purpose of getting high (uppers or downers) and no comrade will distribute such pills or take part in the sale of such pills or other illegal drugs.

ATTENTION - Breaking News - GENERAL T.A.C.O. Announces that...Black Riders is calling for a Nation Wide Gang Truce/Cease Fire - Bloods, Crips, GDs, Stones, Vice Lords: All Gangs, Hoods, Turfs, and Sets Must Unite to Ride on our Real Racist pig enemy! It is time to intensify the revolutionary struggle!

The non-indictment of the pigs that murdered Michael Brown in Ferguson, Ezell Ford in Los Angeles, and Eric Garner in New York proves once again that we can't expect the pigs to investigate the pigs. That's like asking Frank James to investigate his brother, Jesse James, when both of them are racist cowboys. We must defend ourselves by any means necessary. Point J of our upgraded "Ten Point Platform and Program" called the Black Commune Program, clearly states that:

"J. We Ride for an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of Black people. We Ride because we believe we can end police brutality in our Black community by organizing Black self-defense groups dedicated to defending our Black community from racist police oppression and brutality. The 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives a right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all Black people should arm themselves for self-defense."

The picture of General T.A.C.O. was taken in honor of Huey P. Newton during October, Black Panther History Month, even though it's BPP History Month for us every month of the year. Join Now! Black Riders-New Generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. Black Power! RGB4Life! All Power to the People!

20) No comrade will ever appear in public intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol, or any other illegal drug.

21) No comrade shall lie about his/her position/rank to the people or another comrade.

22) No comrade will reveal Black Rider secrets to anyone.

23) No comrade will use the influence or reputation of Black Riders for his/her personal interest.

24) All cadre leaders are to set up decolonization programs/or classes in political and physical education, first aid, karate (empty hand martial arts) weaponry, and other topics such as nutrition and horticulture, which will enable Black people to better survive, and to be able to contribute to the survival of the Party.

25) All comrades are expected to take part in the established decolonization programs and classes.

26) All comrades will carry out orders given to them by their cadre leader or staff member.

27) All comrades are potential leaders and are expected to take the initiative and develop themselves to the utmost, so as to be capable of taking the initiative and providing leadership whenever it is needed.

28) All comrades will read the Black Riders Liberation Party's manual, and put to memory the rules of discipline, code of conduct, ways to combat liberalism, and points of attention as part of their everyday lives.

29) When a cadre leader is not available, comrades will vote and appoint one, on the merit of knowledge, experience, dedication, and courage. All newly elected cadre leaders must report and be approved by the Central Committee of the Black Riders Liberation Party.

30) All cadre leaders are to make available an avenue through which members can air grievances. There must exist a conscientious effort on the part of the cadre leader to resolve these grievances in a humane, patient, and sensitive manner.

31) Cadre leaders are to send dispositions of all grievances to the Central Committee for review.

32) All comrades who are imprisoned will report immediately upon release to a designated cadre leader or other instructed location.

33) No comrade can join any other group outside of the new Black Liberation Army.

34) Always remember that bulletproof Black on Black love and unity is our number one goal to create revolution in fascist AmeriKKKa!

"Settle your quarrels, come together, understand the reality of our situation, understand that fascism is already here, that people are already dying who could be saved, that generations more will die or live poor butchered half-lives if you fail to act. Do what must be done, discover your humanity and your love in revolution. Pass on the torch. Join us, give up your life for the people."

-The Great General George Jackson-

BLACK RIDE OR DIE!
BLACK POWER TO BLACK PEOPLE!
ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

Message to all Black Rider Comrades:

Discipline implies self-control, a willingness to submit to the rules and regulations of an organization, and a willingness to follow the authority that must be exercised in a revolutionary organization. Based on an understanding of the objectives of the revolutionary organization and a need to work constantly in an orderly fashion - using initiative and imagination - organizational self-discipline can be acquired.

People often disregard discipline because they have not given up the traits of individualism which is rampant in a capitalistic society. Arriving late at meetings, failure to execute details, performing work in a sloppy manner are all signs of the lack of discipline. Naturally, disregard for the rules and regulations of an organizations stands at the apex of individualism and a lack of discipline. These tendencies must be weeded out immediately for they have a deadly effect upon the morale of the people who are disciplined.

Discipline can be increased by the acquisition of address books, appointment calendars, diary pads, three-by-five index cards for addresses that can be filed without typing and a refusal to take on more work than one can handle. Extreme security must be taken with addresses.

A unity of will and purpose can never be achieved without conscious efforts of all members of a revolutionary organization to strive to achieve the maximum discipline. When we give our word that we are going to do something, this carries a burden of responsibility and trust and all efforts should be made to keep our promises. Often quarrels and disagreements have arisen in organizations because people failed to keep their word or promises. Revolutionary work has been retarded because this or that comrade had said that he would take such and such a responsibility and failed to deliver at the proper moment.

As the armed struggle in the United States escalates, the importance of discipline will increase. It is not easy to acquire conscious discipline. Even many who are forced to discipline themselves for a job for fear of loss of pay and dismissal, refuse to consciously discipline themselves in a revolutionary organization. (Good work habits should always be kept and discarded.) Actually a lack of discipline is a disregard for the feelings of others and an egotistic assumption that your actions are more important than the group's or some other brothers' and sisters'.

When we enter groups and organizations, we have automatically pledged to give something of ourselves for a greater unity to exercise control over out actions. We no longer can think just of ourselves but of the group, the political unit, the revolutionary organization and the revolutionary movement. Constant political education and group study are the two best methods for instilling discipline in all members, because discipline must be conscious. An intense love for the revolutionary struggle which will come through constant political education and day-to-day work stimulates a greater desire for conscious discipline in revolutionary work.

Thus, to build discipline and eliminate individualism we must stress constant political education, criticism and self-criticism, and the appropriate use of censure. Ultimately, revolutionaries must suspend from their ranks those who constantly violate organizational discipline.

All Power to the People!

BLACK RIDERS LIBERATION PARTY CODE OF CONDUCT

HOW TO TREAT YOUR COMRADES IN THE BLACK RIDERS

1. Do not spitefully criticize your comrade, nor condemn him or her.
2. Give your comrade the benefit of the doubt.
3. If you see a fault in your comrade, do not manifest your comrade's faults in public. If you do, God will manifest yours and you will that your faults are greater.
4. Take your comrade to the side, and tell him in a intelligent manner about his or her faults.
5. If you feel like it will create disharmony and disunity by telling your comrade about his or her faults, do not do so. Instead tell someone of higher rank so they can handle the situation wisely.
6. Do not take a inexperienced or disbeliever's word over your comrade's word!!!
7. Love for your comrade to have that which you have for yourself.
8. Even if your comrade is wrong, or you think he or she is wrong, submit and take the matter to someone of higher rank.
9. Never agree with a disbeliever against your comrade.
10. Inform your comrade of any danger he or she may encounter.
11. Always watch your comrade's back.
12. Two or more comrades should be together at all times.
13. Respect your comrade at all times; do unto him or her as you would like him or her to do to you.
14. Always leave your comrades in peace.
15. Never lie to your comrade by fact or example.
16. Report your comrade if he or she is doing something to endanger the Black Riders Liberation Party.
17. Do not argue with your comrade about anything.
18. Never challenge your comrade to how much knowlegde he or she has.
19. Smile and show love for your comrade at all times.
20. Build up your comrade; make him or her feel good. Draw out the good points in your comrade.
21. No braggin', clownin', or jokin' (especially "blackness" jokes) on your comrade.
22. U must greet your comrade 3 days after a disagreement or dispute
23. Avoid negative conversations with your comrade.
24. No backbiting or talking behind your comrade's back!

Contact Info for the Black Riders

You can reach the Black Riders Liberation Party,
new generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, at
PO Box 8297, Los Angeles CA 90008,
blackriders1996@gmail.com or by calling
602-842-2757 (BRLP), or on facebook,
Black-Riders-Liberation-Party.
The BRLP has been setting up new chapters rapidly around the US,
and is building a nation-wide prison chapter.
Join Now!

Another Definition Of a Soldier

We, the generation born since the 60's and 70's, find ourselves at a crucial crossroads of defining our own reality. But we are the immediate results of wars waged between the Black Liberation movement and the Fascist snake apparatus; we have yet to adapt the ideological community of the Black Power movement as a whole.

As we are often referred to as a Hip-Hop generation, we continue to abandon the revolutionary role that music and culture can facilitate as an institution for nation building beyond business. Primarily, the youth are being influenced by surrogates masquerading as "soldiers." One of the most general descriptions in the video entertainment business and popular media is to effeminate males' so-called thug image, projecting commercial roles that are inconsistent with our realities as a people.

We as a people seeking independent nationhood require real soldiers for the self-determination of the people. What we have thus far are sabotaging elements in our struggle. That is, individuals utilizing the thug title without the slightest idea of its origins in warfare, preferably the art of strangulation. The English word thug came into usage in modern times, stemming back to India in a cult known as Thugee. The Thugee flourished under the British Empire rule and the colonization of India. The Thugee can be designated as an outlaw band of professional assassins in rebellion against the state.

By this definition, we can see that the direction of rap's so-called thugs, and personalities such as Soldier Boy or Young Thug, have nothing to do with war, which is the real business of a real soldier. Those of us now in our 30's and 40's need to revitalize the Black Power movement among the youth. We must no longer allow the infiltration of noncombatants into our homes and lives.

We must convey the stories of soldiers such as Mumia Abu-Jamal, Russell maroon Shoatz, Jonathan Jackson, and others like Assata Shakur, George Jackson, General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out), and Mecca Shakur, Etana amd Laa Laa Shakur and Safiya A. Bukhari. The brothers and sisters mentioned here, to name a few, are the types of soldiers not aired in the news or in the educational curriculum of the enemy.

These are the types of soldiers who are not only liberated themselves, but helped liberate others. Without a revolutionary dialog on the ideological makeup of soldiers, there can be no progress in us liberating ourselves. When it comes to the subjects of independence, self-rule, class, race, imperialism and more, we need a correct perspective on who and what is a soldier, as well as what is not a soldier.

This is the 21st Century crisis we must redefine and rebuild on. The Black entertainment television, national publications, newspapers, and magazines are threats to our security as an oppressed nation seeking to liberate ourselves. Instead it will inspire revolutionary morale to have youth cadre begin reading the well-recommended books George Jackson's *Soledad Brother* or *Blood In My Eye*. Also listen to the music of Tupac Shakur or Black Riders music from Sgt. Askari and Minister of Public Relations E da Ref.

Black Power! All Power to the People!

'The Half Has Never Been Told:
Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism'

Reviewed by Susan Grigsby

On Sept. 4, ***The Economist*** published a book review, for which it apologized, retracted, and then posted on the web. It created no end of furor and discussion about whether the book, or the review, was racist. The anonymous reviewer accused the author of not giving slave owners any credit for their "better treatment" of the slaves which may have been the reason that cotton production increased. He also found that "Almost all the blacks in his book are victims, almost all the whites villains." Since the book concerned slavery in America, Twitter went delightfully mad with #economistbookreviews.

It seemed to me that the ***Economist*** review of *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* was wildly successful. Because while we were all busy smirking, grinning and even laughing at the reviewer, the conversation that the book should have provoked, that ***The Economist*** wanted at all costs to avoid, was never discussed. What did The Economist want to avoid talking about?

Back wages, perhaps?
Or perhaps what caused the Panic of 1837?

Or the ingenuity and perseverance of those whose misfortune it was to be enslaved?

Or perhaps it was this:

The idea that the commodification and suffering and forced labor of African Americans is what made the United States powerful and rich is not an idea that people necessarily are happy to hear. Yet it is the truth.

The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism

By Edward E. Baptist
Published by Basic Books
September 9, 2014
528 pages

In *The Half Has Never Been Told*, Edward E. Baptist, author, historian and Cornell University associate professor, artfully combines the individual voices of an enslaved population within a broader discussion of the economic and geographic growth of America in the nineteenth century. But mostly, he paints a picture of unrestrained, laissez-faire capitalism. A form of capitalism undreamt of by any but the most ardent Ayn Rand fans. It is this picture of capitalism unbound that The Economist likely does not want us to discuss.

In this story of American slavery, and its intimate connection to American capitalism, Baptist demonstrates how the availability of cheap land, slave labor and a government willing to support it can create huge amounts of wealth. Enough wealth to help fund an industrial revolution.

Using thousands of WPA-era interviews and hundreds of post-Civil War memoirs and autobiographies written by former slaves, he brings to life the giant that he uses as his metaphor and organizing tool. The image of this giant comes from an essay written by Ralph Ellison:

"On the moral level I propose we view the whole of American life as a drama enacted on the body of a Negro giant who, lying trussed up like Gulliver, forms the stage and the scene upon which and within which the action unfolds."

Baptist takes apart the myths that our society has created to make us more comfortable with our slave-owning past. He begins with the biggest myth of all, that slavery was unprofitable, inefficient, and would eventually die off as it would be unable to adapt and to compete with industrialization.

Sure.

Unfortunately, there is absolutely no evidence that it was either inefficient or that it was dying out. On the contrary, the cheap and ready availability of stolen lands and easy credit due to creative financial instruments, combined with the slave labor that the laws allowed, encouraged and protected, led to a boom in cotton production that showed little signs of slowing by 1860. In 1860, the Southern slave labor camps provided 88 percent of the cotton used in Great Britain's cotton mills. Cotton had become the number one trading commodity of the entire world. It fueled the industrial revolution, feeding not just the cotton mills of Britain, but also the ones in towns like Lowell, Massachusetts. The cotton mills of Lowell were built with the profits made from the unpaid labor of African Americans in the slave l

Slaves Waiting for Sale: Richmond, Virginia. Painted upon the sketch of 1853 by Eyre Crowe, Painting from sketch of 1853

labor camps. Cotton went from 14 percent of the total American exports in 1802 to 61 percent by 1860. The United States share of the worldwide cotton market climbed from one percent in 1801 to 66 percent by 1860.

As new lands were opened by the Louisiana Purchase and the forced eviction of almost 50,000 Native Americans from the lands to which they held title, slavery moved from the coastal states of the Old South to the new Southwest. Foreclosed from importing new slaves to work the new land by the Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves of 1807, slave traders forced the migration of one million slaves:

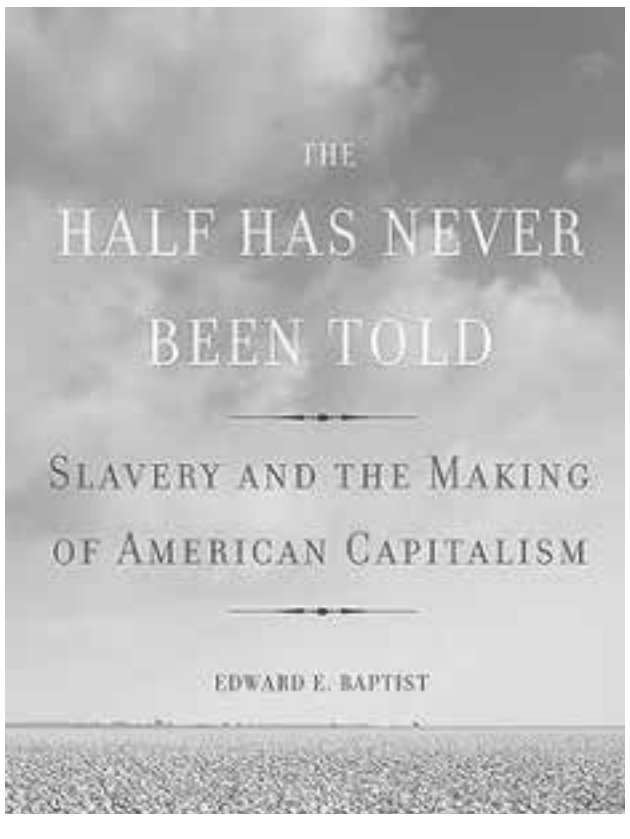
From the 1790s to the 1860s, enslavers moved 1 million people from the old slave states to the new. They went from making no cotton to speak of in 1790 to making almost 2 billion pounds of it in 1860. Stretching out beyond the slave South, the story encompassed not only Washington politicians and voters across the United States but also Connecticut factories, London banks, opium addicts in China, and consumers in East Africa.

On the eve of the Civil War, the enslavers were eyeing land in Texas, California, and even Cuba to further the expansion of the slave labor camps. The number of slaves had increased five-fold over what it was in the 1790s.

In the vernacular of the African American, this forced migration, this tearing apart of families and homes, was called stealing. A man was "stole" from his home in a Virginia slave labor camp, and shipped down the river to New Orleans to be sold. In calling this a theft, the African American community was identifying the criminal nature of slavery and building a common story of themselves, as a people.

The crop of cotton in 1859 was astonishing— almost 2 billion pounds of clean fiber in 4 million bales. Slavery's productivity was higher than ever— some 700 pounds per enslaved man, woman, and child in the cotton country, twenty-two times the rate in 1790.

The astounding increase in productivity was due to the ingenuity of the African American slaves; not because they were treated so well by their enslavers, but because they faced whippings, and worse, should they fail to meet their quotas. So they found ways to pick cotton with both hands, to pick it faster and to waste less motion in order to avoid the whip's lash. The quotas were increased regularly, creating a push system of labor, requiring ever-increasing productivity from the enslaved.



And thus untold amounts of mental labor, unknown breakthroughs of human creativity, were the keys to an astonishing increase in cotton production that required no machinery— save the whipping-machine, of course. With it, enslavers looted the riches of black folk's minds, stole days and months and years and lifetimes, turned sweat, blood, and flesh into gold.

According to Baptist, during the Civil War, when demand for cotton far exceeded the supply, the federal government leased land on South Carolina's Sea Islands to northern entrepreneurs who would attempt to grow cotton using employees who were paid for their labor. Despite the experiments that included monthly wages and wages paid per pound of cotton picked, they were unable to achieve anything near the productivity of the slave labor camps.

The Half Has Never Been Told is a story that covers an immense amount of territory. Baptist includes the individual narratives of the enslaved people and letters from those whose wealth depended on the slave trade or slave labor. It is from one of those letters that we learn of the casualness with which women's sexual slavery is discussed. "Fancy" girls were sold for a price directly related to her light skin and sexual attractiveness.

Baptist also examines the tendency toward violence that was prevalent in the South as white men, in order to prove they were superior to the enslaved men, took offense at the any perceived slight to their honor. Duels to defend that honor distinguished them from the African American who, of course, was not allowed to defend himself or his loved ones.

He draws other parallels to today while exploring the causes of the Panic of 1837, including the lessening of financial regulations, the creation of new financial instruments and the belief that cotton prices must always rise in defiance of the laws of supply and demand.

An excerpt from The Half Has Never Been Told was published by Salon, and can be found online. http://www.salon.com/2014/09/07/we_still_lie_about_slavery_heres_the_truth_about_how_the_american_economy_and_power_were_built_on_forced_migration_and_torture/

If unregulated capitalism succeeds wildly only through theft and torture, should we not be regulating it more closely? Should we not take steps to insure that the theft of wages is never again allowed to happen?

And if the Koch brothers, and the Waltons, and so many other Americans can live off of the wealth created by their ancestors, isn't something owing to the heirs of the African Americans who created the wealth of this nation?

Perhaps this is what ***The Economist*** is hoping we won't talk about, being distracted as we are, by a review that suggests that reality has a liberal bias.

Ida B. Wells Coalition Against Racism and Police Brutality

A nationwide coalition organized along anti-authoritarian lines is taking shape and is looking to help start chapters - both inside and outside of prison. The **Memphis Black Autonomy Federation,** spearheaded by JoNina Abron & Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, has developed this solidarity-minded initiative.

South Chicago ABC Zine Distro and the **Ida B. Wells Coalition in Kansas City** are the contacts for the coordination of prisoner-based chapters. We are looking to publish a national prisoner newsletter dealing with the issues of racism, brutality, torture and slavery in the U.S. prisons.

To learn more, get involved or start a chapter, contact:

Memphis Black Autonomy Federation
P.O. Box 16382
Memphis, TN 38186-0382
organize.the.hood@gmail.com - 901.674.8430

Ida B. Wells Coalition Against Racism and Police Brutality
Kansas City - idabwellsinkc@gmail.com - 505.205.7909

South Chicago ABC Zine Distro
P. O. Box 721 / Homewood, IL 60430
anthonyrayson@hotmail.com - 708.534.1334

The Ida B. Wells Coalition Organizer's Manual and ***the Program of the Black Autonomy Prison Federation***, along with over 1,000 other, mainly prisoner publications are available through the South Chicago ABC Zine Distro, as is the new 2015 catalog.

Protesters outside White House Demand answers on 43 Missing Mexicans

from press reports on RT, Al Jazeera, Counterpunch and Informativo Pacifica

Relatives and activists kick the gate of the 41st infantry battalion during a demonstration demanding justice for the 43 missing students from Ayotzinapa Teacher Training College in Iguala, Guerrero, Dec. 26, 2014. (Reuters / Jorge Dan Lopez)

Protests against the Mexican government spread from Mexico to the US, as demonstrators took to the streets January 6 outside the White House as Barack Obama met with his Mexican counterpart, Enrique Peña Nieto.

Dozens of protesters from across the US braved a snowstorm to make their voices heard. They demanded justice for the so-called 'Missing 43,' a group of 43 students from a teacher training college, who disappeared near Iguala, in the southern Mexican state of Guerrero, on September 27 following a protest to support the rights of rural teachers. There were demonstrations in cities around the US, including here in L.A. outside the Mexican consulate that featured a guerrilla theater skit with a blooded, handcuffed figure of Justice.

An independent investigative report in December claimed that the Mexican Federal Police were directly involved in the attack, contrary to the authorities' statements. It also asserted that state and federal authorities were tracking the students' movements on September 26 in real-time; not only did authorities do nothing to prevent their abduction and consequent murder, but police reportedly directly attacked the youths. Mexico has been inflamed by the disappearances with unrelenting protests picking up the hashtag themes of ***#YaMeCanse*** (I'm tired of this, quoting Mexico's Attorney General equivalent trying to cut off questioning from the press) and ***#FueElEstado*** (It was the government responsible for the disappearances).

The AP quoted Ivan Almonte, a 36-year-old Mexican who has been living in the United States for 16 years, at the DC protest. "We are very upset. We want Peña Nieto to quit and to tell us where are the 43 students. Why so much silence?"

The students' disappearance has posed the biggest challenge so far to President Enrique Peña Nieto's administration, with many questioning the government's progress in fighting against drug violence. Obama and Peña Nieto reportedly discussed the missing students during their meeting. The Mexican president has drawn criticism for saying it was time to "move beyond" the case just weeks after their abduction and for taking a month after their disappearance to meet with their families.

One protester told RT, "We have seen an increase in violations of human rights, we see an increase in homicides and we see an increase of killings every single day that go impugned with nothing going on. All of these millions of dollars are just being dumped. There's really nothing being done, and so we need to ask, 'Why?' and 'Why is this happening?' It's affecting everybody."

According to Laura Carlsen, the director of the Americas Program in Mexico City and advisor to Just Associates (JASS), the mayor of Iguala, José Luis Abarca, is being held for ordering the attacks and for colluding with the regional drug cartel, Guerreros Unidos. Maria de los Angeles Pineda Villa, his wife, has been charged with participation in organized crime and money laundering. Pineda is being held in a maximum security prison until the start of her trial, Al Jazeera reported. Feeling the heat, the state's governor, Angel Aguirre Rivero, also resigned on October 23 (he was from the nominally left PRD party, from whose candidate, Lopez Obrador, the presidency was stolen in fraudulent elections some years ago; but the PRD in Guerrero has been part of the problem, and the Zapatistas and other extra-parliamentary left forces in Mexico, and increasingly broad sectors of the population are fed up with all three major parties). Civil society groups and a Twitter campaign are calling for an investigation of Aguirre for complicity in the crime and for protecting Abarca.

But the national authorities are not exempt. Recent evidence shows that the Mexican Army and Federal Police had knowledge of the incident before, during, and after it occurred. Although they were based just moments away, they certainly didn't protect the students. There's evidence to suggest that they were in fact directly involved in the crime.

Since the killings, the Peña Nieto administration has fumbled along in what appears to be a massive cover-up. The president first insisted that the crime was under the state government's jurisdiction, despite the fact that transnational criminal organizations were implicated and that international law considers enforced disappearances "by their very nature a crime against humanity."

Later, Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam announced a finding that the Guerreros Unidos gang had murdered the students and buried their bodies in clandestine graves. In searching for the 43 students, investigators turned up several other mass graves of other previously-unreported massacre victims. When the 30 bodies recovered turned out not to be the missing students, the AG instead declared that the criminals had incinerated the bodies at a dump in nearby Cocula and thrown the ashes in the river. One student was identified among remains found in bags in the river. But the parents and some forensics experts dispute the hypothesis of mass incineration at the dump. For example, there is no residue from the tires the gang members claim they used to incinerate the bodies.

The issue is continuing to build ongoing massive protests in Mexico, similar to the way the issue of police killings in the US has sparked ongoing direct action. Protesters stormed an army base associated with the killings recently.

We are all Ayotzinapa - Mark Vallen 2014 © www.art-for-a-change.com
Hecho en Aztlan. Available for free download as a jpg or pdf poster at website.

WHITE POWER BAND AGGRAVATED ASSAULT BOOKED IN PHILLY JAN. 10 – THEN CANCELLED

Updated 1/8/2015: We at Antifa Philadelphia are happy to announce that the white power show has been cancelled. Apparently the attention drawn to the show by Antifascists was picked up on by several local media outlets, which led to Mayor Nutter's office calling the Outlaws directly and asking them to cancel the show, citing safety concerns.

You might notice from the City Paper article linked above that the show's organizer, Steven Weigand, disassociated himself from the event claiming it appeared to him "to have been made by the Communist blogs or Daryl[e] Lamont Jenkins."

Fortunately, Atlantic City "Skinheads" member Chris Arlan (who posts as 'AC Skin' on Stormfront) never misses an opportunity to promote a show for his buddy Warren.

Maybe Arlan was in on the OPP conspiracy to defame Wiegand, who denies booking the show but still claims his free speech was impeded on when people announced that it had been booked, but we doubt it. Soon after we posted our alert, Arlan was back on Stormfront, saying it was cancelled and claiming a bomb threat.

Thank you to who helped spread the word when we heard about this show short-notice, and the individuals and groups who came forward and offered to help organize a response.Philly is done with ACS. Done with KSS. Done with Micetrap, Blood and Honour, KKK and all the rest.

--Antifa Philadelphia

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

★ April 4, 1pm M. Novick speaks: AWARE-LA, Santa Monica UU Society
★ April 23, Coordinated Statewide Actions to End Solitary Confinement
★ April 25, 2-5pm Building Blocks vs Climate Change, Wilshire Bl. LA
★ April 29, Monthly Call-In to White House: Free Oscar Lopez Rivera!
★ May 1, International Workers' Day, M1GS, Migrant Rights Rally, LA
★ May 28-31, Left Forum in NYC ★ June 24-28 US Social Forum, San Jose
★ June 6, From Ferguson to Mexico to Palestine: HP Boycott Campaign

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- MUMIA ABU JAMAL

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A JOURNAL OF INTER-COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY

TURNING THE TIDE

Volume 28 ★ Number 2 ★ ISSN 1082-6491 ★ April-June 2015

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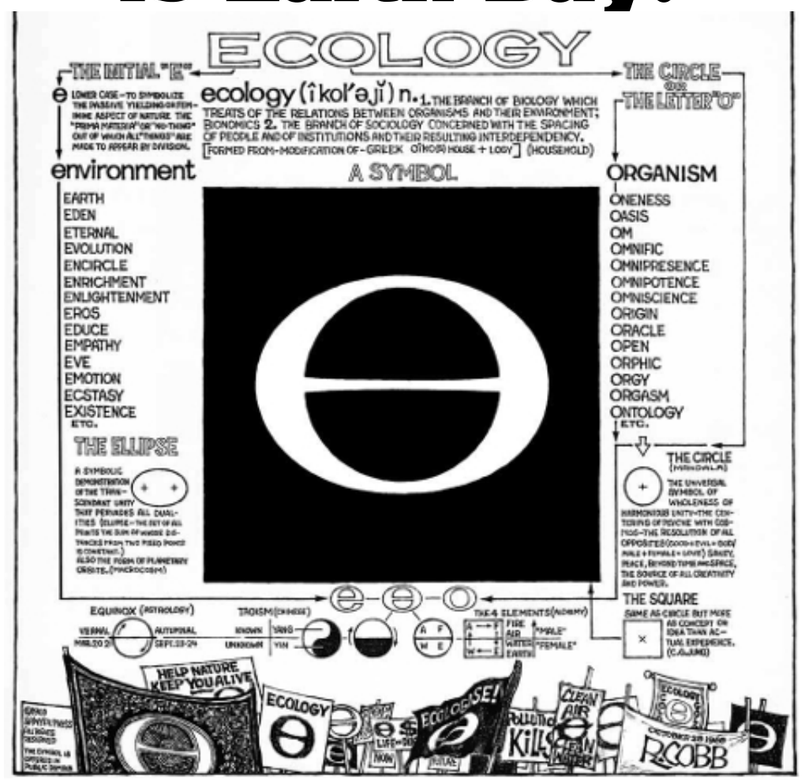

PEOPLE AND PLANET BEFORE PROFITS!
DECOLONIZE! DEMILITARIZE! DECARCERATE!

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Building a Culture and Communities of Solidarity, Resistance and Liberation

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-LA/ People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***

For many years, I used the slogan "culture of resistance" as a type of shorthand to express the need to oppose imperialism in a broad, deep and sustained way. More recently, I have come to see that slogan as inadequate. As the title of this essay indicates, I think it needs to be expanded in several ways.

First of all, I now understand that we must start, not with resistance, but with solidarity. Similar to the change of the subtitle of this publication, from "Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education" to "Journal of Inter-communal Solidarity," I believe that we must begin by accentuating the positive. Solidarity expresses an affirmative, positive goal. As the Native aphorism would have it, a single twig is easily broken, but a bundle of twigs can withstand great pressure. In order to effectively resist, we must first establish a positive foundation of unity.

AFFIRMATION, NEGATION & TRANSFORMATION

The three-part formula "solidarity, resistance and liberation," in a sense, expresses three aspects of a process: affirmation, negation, and transformation. It sums up the basic dialectical process of a thesis, antithesis, and synthesis. This situates the cultural, political, social and economic struggle we must engage in clearly in the process of development of all natural, physical, biological and social phenomena.

We must affirm our humanity. What does it mean to be human? Human beings exist within a continuum of physical reality, natural existence, biological life, and other sentient beings. Human beings are social animals with a long gestation period, a lengthy maturation period, and the necessity for education and inculcation of behavioral norms and moral standards in ourselves and our offspring. Our behavior reflects the capacity for free will in the context of the need for kinship, collaboration, and collective effort in order to survive.

Our consciousness reflects the need and capacity to make choices about how we interact with each other and with the rest of nature, as well as a freedom of sexual expression, satisfaction and connection shared with only a few other forms of animal life. Our ability to work and generate the means of survival relies primarily on learned and shared practices, rather than instinctual or genetically coded instructions. Our bonding and familial relationships are similarly less bound by such ironclad arrangements and more subject to choice, variation and experimentation. Humans have demonstrated a capacity to shape not only our own physical and social evolution, but the co-evolution of many other species.

This is not unique to humans, because the geological and biological history of our planet demonstrates that life from its inception has Terra-formed the planet itself, helping to produce the oceans, affect the composition of the atmosphere, and shape the course of development of many different life forms. Humans however, have the greatest potential thus far demonstrated to engage in such processes consciously and with intent. Thus, to be human means to possess great power, intellect and capacity for growth and transformation. It also requires a deep understanding of and respect for the web of life within which we exist and upon which we depend. In our interactions with each other and with the rest of nature, therefore, humans require rigorous inquiry and a clear and careful moral code to survive and thrive.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

The affirmation of solidarity is an expression of both a moral stance of empathy and sympathy and an openness to curious and self-critical engagement with others. This understanding has been embedded in slogans such as "An Injury to One is an Injury to All," or more recently and succinctly, "Black Lives Matter." But this solidarity must extend to include other life forms and the physical and chemical underpinnings of life. Humanity will not long endure if we exterminate the birds, the bees, and the fish in the seas.

As humans, we must learn from observation and participation in natural and social processes larger than our own individual perspectives or desires. Like all other natural and social phenomena, humans embody a contradiction that drives our development. We require both autonomy and embeddedness; both individual and collective will, identity and action, in order to be fully human, and to survive and sustain ourselves across generations.

Because of this inherent contradiction, the affirmation of solidarity must be confronted and supplemented by negation, in the form of resistance. This is not only because humans learn through individual and social trial and error and experimentation, learning from our errors through a process of criticism, self-criticism and course correction. It is also because in the nature of physical existence, we live on a planet with gravity. Anything we do requires work, the application of energy to produce movement. If there is no friction, however, there is no traction. It is a law of nature and thermodynamics that every action has an equal and opposite reaction. But in particular, the evidence of our senses regarding the state of natural and social conditions as they have been impacted by the current dominant forms of economic, social and political organization of humans makes it clear that continuing on the current course is suicidal, genocidal and ecocidal. Resistance to the particular dominant current paradigm of colonialism and capitalism is essential to continued existence of humanity and the biosphere that sustains us.

As humans, we require and make use of individual initiative; but the hyper-individualistic, "dog-eat-dog" mentality of capitalism and colonialism will rapidly be the death of us -- and more than us -- if we do not resist and effectively oppose it. For the good of all, we must affirm the humanity and inherent value of the cultures that various humans have created in a thousand thousand places around the globe, and of the valuable cultural diversity and (with crops, biospheres and ecological niches) biological diversity this represents, a rich heritage and pool of knowledge for all humanity.

But to do so requires confronting and eliminating colonialism; the imposition of hierarchical monoculture (on both humans and the lands we inhabit). The restoration of sovereignty, and of a communal way of life, is vital, appreciating the commons and the inherent value of land as the source and ground of life, itself a part of the transformative cycles of life, death, birth, decay and recomposition. We must resist the burning of fossil fuels, the depletion of ancient aquifers, the acidification of the oceans.

But in order to resist successfully, we must have a goal and a purpose. Our resistance cannot be atavistic or nihilistic. Particularly for people of European descent in the western hemisphere, and the global North, but to some extent for all peoples uprooted and dispersed from the seedbeds of their particular people and ancestral way of life, the only way out is forward -- to a new way of life, to liberation. This requires conscious application of our solidarity and our resistance strategically.

> ***Resistance to the particular dominant current paradigm of colonialism and capitalism is essential to continued existence of humanity and the biosphere that sustains us.***

DIVIDING ONE INTO TWO

We must separate the baby from the bathwater, identify and elaborate what is best and most positive in our cultures and communities; critically examine and transform what is negative, whether internal to our own development or imposed and implanted by a colonizing power. This may involve changes in our diets, our child-rearing, our "way of life," our belief systems. It means embracing the actual diversity of human genders, as opposed to a Procrustean binary of masculinity and femininity. It means recognizing that women are the species and that all men are at least half women genetically and chromosomally.

Recent studies and papers have dated the "anthropocene," the era in which humanity began to shape the planet and particularly the atmosphere, to the eradication of tens of millions of indigenous people in the Western hemisphere after European invasion. While it is true that this genocide, and the related one of tens of millions of Africans in trans-Atlantic slavery, had such an impact -- particularly in the reforestation of the Americas that produced a mini-Ice Age in Europe because of the sequestering of atmospheric CO_2 in the forest growth -- that view is Eurocentric.

Those tens of millions of humans had been helping shape the atmosphere long before that, along with the forests and vegetation, by controlled burns of forest areas and underbrush in what became known as North America, a steady release of carbon dioxide for the purpose of creating a human-shaped environment that facilitated the capture of wildlife as a food source. In the Amazon basin to the south, there is recent archeological evidence of similar controlled burns in the rain forest to produce charcoal to create new types of soils, as well as of an arboreal agriculture revolution that produced foods without clear-cutting and deforestation. It's thus the height of arrogance to imagine that it was only the action of Europeans (even the horrible, genocidal ones) that ushered in a different era of a human-shaped planet.

However, it is today the actions, culture, belief system, economic organization and enterprises of European society, of industrial imperialism and colonialism, that is without a doubt destroying the capacity of the planet to regenerate life. This is not a racial matter, because that way of life has been internalized and reproduced by Asians, Africans and other indigenous people. The rise of BRICS -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa -- will be no salvation if the Chinese, Indians, Brazilians, Russians and South Africans, as is currently the case, adopt the same irrational and destructive models of growth and development practiced by the US and the EU. The high rates of economic 'growth' in Africa are manifesting in greater economic inequality and deepening real poverty, benefitting only a neo-colonial elite in bed with the imperialist monopolies, banks, and international financial institutions of the "West."

So in Europe, among Euro-Americans and the peoples "internally" colonized within the US, in Africa, Asia and Latin America (the historic "Third World"), the prescription is actually increasingly similar. We must realize our creative, communitarian powers, create spaces to build a new way of life and a new world in the interstices and ruins of the old, while simultaneously arming ourselves spiritually, intellectually, philosophically and physically to erode and uproot the power of the state and the economic enterprises that run it and use it. We have to defend ourselves against the forces of reaction and repression.

Lenin, a century ago, described imperialism as "moribund," dying capitalism. But Leninist and other revolutions proved incomplete, and capitalism has survived and sunk its tentacles even more deeply into everyday life and even into the biological processes of life itself in the past hundred years. Now, we must say that capitalist imperialism/colonialism is not merely parasitic or moribund but ***necrotic*** -- it "lives" through death, and its touch kills so that it may live. We need to devise mental, emotional, spiritual and economic probiotics, ways of thinking and acting in harmony with nature and with each other that extirpate the roots that system has sunk into our own minds and practices. We need to immunize ourselves and each other against its infectious seductions. We must abandon, once and for all, the identification with and as the oppressor that has held back our movements, and decolonize our minds.

ALLIES OR ACCOMPLICES?

For people of European descent, heirs to settler colonialism, that means especially recognizing that

privilege is actually a form of social control that governs our behavior and enforces our obedience. We must embrace the struggle against capitalism and colonialism, for liberation, as the only path forward.

There's been some discussion lately about terminology, whether people should be "allies" or "accomplices." Despite the identification of the term "*white ally*" with the so-called non-profit-industrial complex, I think it's a better term than *accomplice*. *Accomplice* is a term rooted in *complicity*, and in jurisprudence and criminal law; it accepts the idea that someone is engaged in criminal behavior, wrongdoing, and someone else is facilitating that action, before or after the fact. *Ally* is a much clearer and more positive word in its true meaning -- allies fight alongside each other for a common purpose against a common enemy.

The key is a willingness **to fight**, including against white supremacy and colonialism. There have been mass reactionary forces based on racism, class hierarchies and privilege in Cuba, Venezuela, Brazil, in Asia, Africa and the Arab world. It's absurd to think the US is exempt. We white allies will have to confront and undermine white reaction, and drive a wedge into pro-imperialist forms of white 'solidarity' and nationalism, to build a base with the social weight to contribute to the struggle for liberation.

AN OPEN INVITATION TO ORGANIZERS, ACTIVISTS AND SOCIAL-CHANGE AGENTS:

Another world is possible. Another system is necessary!

Join the US Social Forum, June 24-28, in Philadelphia PA, Jackson MS, and San Jose CA.

Our communities and our society are in crisis. There is no economic recovery for the poor and oppressed. State violence and political repression are a daily reality. Climate and environmental change threaten our survival. But we're resisting and building movement for the long haul.

We invite you to attend, to participate and to help create and shape the third US Social Forum June 24-28, 2015. To think together, vision together, act together, and strategize as a movement.

The US Social Forum comes out of the World Social Forum process, a gathering of social movement forces beginning in 2001, that rejects the neoliberal agenda of global capitalism.

The prior US Social Forums convened in Atlanta in 2007 and in Detroit in 2010, drawing over 10,000 each time!

This year, we are gathering in Philadelphia, PA, San Jose, CA and we are collaborating with organizations in the South in areas like Jackson, Houston, Florida and Georgia— with plans to link our work via technology.

This will be a perfect place for social change-agents to educate, agitate and organize together. It is more than an event – it is a movement building process led by poor people, people of color, immigrants, women, LGBT people – the people and organizations on the very front lines of struggle. We organize under a very specific set of principles, and unite under the banner "Another World is Possible. Another System is Necessary."

So if you are working for peace, justice, democracy, equality, sustainability and liberation, we invite you to join us.

Register your organization so you can submit a workshop or a participatory Peoples Movement Assembly. Or register yourself as an individual.

Your help is needed. Spread the word. Join us!
info@ussocialforum.net
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FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER

Column Written 2/15/15 © 2015 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Every generation for the past 200 years can vividly picture the Frankenstein monster.

Tall, imposing, usually mute, this creature is alive and not alive; mobile, but haltingly so, so that we, the more nimble can escape his perilous embrace.

Yet, who is the real monster: the one who designed and constructed this being? – or the one who was built?

One wonders of such things when we see the sudden slaughters, bombings and beheadings – happening in many parts of the cities of Europe and the Middle East – and beyond.

We hear of ISIS – and of Nigeria's 'Boko Haram.' But guess where it all began?

In the 1970s – 1979, in fact – an Afghan warlord, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, was hired by Pakistani intelligence as a gift to the U.S. CIA. Hekmatyar was a ruthless dude, who hated both the U.S. and the Soviets. His Pakistani backers told him his job was to kill Russians – Communists actually – who wanted to back Najibullah, the Afghan president.

Hekmatyar, then head of something he called the Islamic Party, built a military machine he called Mujahiddin. While the CIA was quietly calling the guy a "fascist" and "scary," then President Ronald Reagan called them "freedom fighters," and invited them to the White House.

This would be the seed of the Taliban, al Qaeda, now ISIS, and hundreds more across the world: trained, armed and aimed at the West's targets and now – aimed at the West itself.

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, the author of the 1818 science fiction novel, *Frankenstein*, had the scientist say the following words: "I beheld the wretch – the miserable monster whom I had created."

Who was the real monster – the maker – or the made?

Statewide Coordinated Actions To End Solitary Confinement
STOP THE TORTURE!

by Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition

In response to a call from the SHU prisoners involved in the prisoner hunger strikes for the Five Core Demands, the Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition (PHSS) has helped launch Statewide Coordinated Actions To End Solitary Confinement (SCATESC) on the 23rd of each month, which started Monday, March 23, 2015. The next scheduled actions are on Thursday, April 23, Saturday May 23, and Tuesday June 23, 2015.

This date emphasizes the 23 or more hours every day that people are kept in solitary confinement. Statewide Coordinated Actions every month respond to the Pelican Bay Hunger Strikers' Proposals (November, 2013). They stated:

"We want to consider the idea of designating a certain date each month as Prisoner Rights Day. On that date each month prisoners across the state would engage in peaceful activities to call attention to prison conditions. At the same time our supporters would gather in locations throughout California to expose CDCR's [CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation] actions and rally support efforts to secure our rights. We can see this action growing from month to month as more people inside and out become aware of it and join our struggle."

These coordinated actions will acknowledge the importance of organized, community-based pressure as a core strategy (along with courts and legislators) of our work outside the walls to end solitary confinement.

Actions are planned in CA from San Diego to Arcata (including San Diego, Los Angeles, San Jose, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Arcata); also, nationwide and internationally. Information can be found at the PHSS Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Prisoner-Hunger-Strike-Solidarity/117053298383319 and https://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com/2015/03/16/beginning-march-23rd-statewide-coordinated-actions-to-end-solitary-confinement/

Anti-Racist Action-LA is one of the co-sponsors and helped pull together the LA launching action outside the Reagan State Building on Spring and Third Sts. downtown (where offices for Attorney General Kamala Harris and Gov. Jerry Brown are located). The time and location of the upcoming actions have yet to be determined.

Please let us know at phssoutreach@gmail.com if you will endorse or what you will do to co-sponsor, and describe action(s) in your locale. If you want to be part of the Outreach Group organizing this effort, please email Verbena and Willow. Verbena <peoplesarc@gmail.com>; Willow <kohenet@sbcglobal.net>

On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide

You can find archives of ***Turning the Tide*** at **www.antiracist.org** that go back more than seven years. In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as facebook.com/tideturning, and facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity. You can follow @ara_losangeles on Twitter, and the De-Colonize LA blog at ara-la.tumblr.com. Also check http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stop-polabuse, Stop Police Abuse Now!

Native Prisoner Project Seeks Contacts, Stories & Art

by Kori Cordero

The federal prison system is designed for adults. Yet the criminal jurisdiction maze in Indian Country results in Native children accounting for 70% of children committed to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) as delinquents and 31% of youth committed to the BOP as adults, despite being only 1% of the national youth population. On a policy level, there is very little information about how this happens and there isn't a person or agency that knows exactly where all of these Native children are; they just get 'lost' in the system.

The Federal Juvenile Delinquency Act (FJDA) requires the Attorney General to certify that states lack jurisdiction or adequate programs and services before placing a child in federal court and federal detention. The only exception is if the alleged crime is a specific felony or drug crime where the federal government has a substantial interest in prosecution. There is no similar certification mechanism for Native nations, however, which allows the federal government to prosecute Native children without consulting their Native nation. At the state level, there is no general requirement for states to inform Native nations that their child-citizen is in custody.

The FJDA also makes it mandatory for states to have continuing education opportunities for incarcerated children. The federal government has not followed this standard; Congress has stopped allocating funds for mandated educational services and programs to incarcerated Native children. As a result, many Native children in the adult federal prison system are not receiving basic services mandated by federal law.

The federal government is aware of this unconscionable situation. They were reminded in 2008, when "A Tangled Web of Justice" was published. They were reminded in November 2013, when the President of the US and Congress received recommendations from the President's bi-partisan Indian Law and Order Commission (ILOC). And they were reminded again in November 2014, when the Attorney General's Task Force on American Indian/ Alaskan Native Children Exposed to Violence released its report. Aside from the lack of meaningful response from the federal government, one thing each of these reminders has in common is their data sources. While the reports are the product of qualified and committed people, the lack of raw data has made it so there isn't much new information to disclose.

At the state level, Native children and adult prisoners are often lumped into the "other" category on forms that collect data by race. This lack of data at the state and federal level makes it very difficult to create effective policy. As a result, Native prisoners - especially Native children - are subject to especially harsh treatment with little hope for reform, because policy makers and Native rights advocates do not have accurate and complete information as to the number of Natives in prison populations.

Without complete data, it is difficult to hold systems accountable for placing Native prisoners, including children, far from their families and communities. Before contact, banishment from the community was one of the harshest punishments that occurred, second only to death in some communities. While Native prisoners haven't been banished, they've been forcibly removed, and the effect is the same, if not worse. Their nation loses a citizen and the prisoner suffers the trauma that comes with separation and incarceration. For example, based on the little data available, we know that around 20 percent of Alaska Natives under the supervision of Alaska's Department of Corrections are caged in the state of New York, almost all at the Hudson Correctional Facility. Anecdotal evidence reveals that placing Native prisoners far from their homes and communities is not an uncommon practice. But we don't have the data needed to demonstrate to policy makers that a change needs to come.

Tied to the problem of isolation from the community is the loss of religious expression. Native religious practices are important to rehabilitation. But without complete data, the religious rights of Native prisoners are especially vulnerable to infringement. People that are working on this important issue need to know where/how Native prisoners are being held if they are to effectively advocate for their rights. Prison systems that do not keep track of Native prisoners can more easily get away with violating religious rights of Natives.

In response to these problems, the Native Prisoner Project (Project) will collect information from Native prisoners, using ***Turning the Tide*** and community outreach to solicit Native experiences of incarceration. The Project is using a survey and collecting letters, stories, and art from prisoners and distilling the information into uniform data points -- demographic and procedural information about their respective cases.

We will pass the data on to academics, service providers, and policy makers who can use the information to create a positive change. The original letters, stories, and art will be the basis of a community art project that can be accessed online; a website where people can view the media we're collecting as we get it and whatever else prisoners want to share for that purpose. The website will also contain information that can be used to widen participation, so anyone can contact a Native prisoner they know and help them get involved with this Project. While finding every Native prisoner is a daunting and virtually impossible task, this Project will provide a forum and procedure that Native communities can use to find our people.

This Project will also facilitate communication between Native prisoners and the community, sharing stories and experience through art. Native prisoners who participate in the Project can grant permission to release their contact information on the website, creating the opportunity for the wider community to reach out to individuals. Incarceration cancels the voices and visibility of prisoners and alienates them from their communities, which is especially damaging to Natives.

Collecting information about Native prisoners is a positive start. Creating a system within the federal prison system that is actually designed for youth can be a positive change. But the fact remains, U.S. federal and state prisons, jails, and juvenile detention centers are incredibly violent, dehumanizing, and cause irreversible damage. That kind of evil cannot be reformed. Let's do something better. Native nations have a particular advantage when it comes to abolishing the BOP's impact in our communities and incarceration itself; Native nations' sovereign status, treaty rights, and federal Indian law are all tools that other groups cannot use. Another advantage is that the idea of a world without incarceration is actually an ancient reality: the justice systems of pre-contact Native nations did not require cages. With over 566 nations, there are several models to choose from. Even in modern times, Native nations successfully use restorative and alternative justice models that allow communities to heal and grow, all while avoiding incarceration.

While the plan is to make the data available to people who are pushing for justice, including those in the federal government, my hope is that Native nations will feel inspired and challenged to work together and come up with incarceration alternatives that put Native nations back in control of what happens to community members and their children. Funding is a big obstacle to sustainability, but some money is already there. According to the BOP, contracting to place a juvenile costs $259 per day or $94,535 per year. Native communities can do much more with those resources than the federal government ever has. Each community needs the ability to operate a justice system that is tailored to its cultural values, instead of being coerced into adopting a foreign (and failing) "justice" system. While I'm not sure what better looks like, I know that finding our people is a start, and listening to what they have to say is a good second step.

See Release Form & Questions on next page.

https://www.facebook.com/prisonarts
Prison Creative Arts Project
(c) R. De Jesus 2014

Introduction to the article and the Questions

Hello. My name is Kori Cordero, founder of the Native Prisoner Project. I'm a Chican@ and Native activist and I'd like to be helpful to my communities. I'm hoping you can show me how. You're the first to see the complete Native Prisoner Project; it was created with you in mind and we need your participation for it to be successful.

The related article above is an introduction to the project that I've started in order to find incarcerated Natives. It describes a problem that concerns me and my plans for addressing it. Essentially, Native prisoners are not accounted for in the prison system, which makes it more difficult for Natives to access to important services. The state might not care to keep track of where you are or what happens to you; but I care and I'm not alone--our community cares and has been pushing for change. We can't be very effective without your help. Please read the article and answer the questions on the next page as best you can. We'll use the information to fight for a change.

We'd like to know what change is most important to you; the article outlines the goals of the project, but the goals can be shifted to better address your concerns. If you would like us to know more than what is covered by the questions, please send us material for the community art project. We will put your art, letters, poetry, or other writings on our website. The community art component is very important for at least two reasons: (1) it will reveal your experience and concerns and can help us focus future work on those issues that are most important to you; (2) it increases our ability to advertise the project via social media (facebook, twitter, etc.) and help push for change in the prison system.

If you decide to participate in this project please answer the questions as fully as possible. Also, consider sending your art or writings so they can be part of our community art project.

Please be sure to copy and sign the legal release on the next page, so we can put your art and writing submissions on our website. Because you're the first to hear of the project, the website is not yet live. Once we get submissions through this first ***TTT*** article, we will launch the website. The next ***TTT*** will contain an update on the project.

If you're not a Native prisoner, please let any Native prisoners you might know about this project and help them get involved. We are hoping to reach as many Native prisoners as possible. Your help spreading the word will be key to the success of the Native Prisoner Project.

--Love and Solidarity, Kori Cordero, Native Prisoner Project

All materials should be mailed to:

Kori Cordero, c/o Tribal Law and Policy Institute
8235 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 211
West Hollywood, CA 90046

NATIVE PRISONER PROJECT SURVEY

...Continued from previous page

Legal Release for Artworks and Writings

(The release below gives the project exclusive permission to use your art/letter/info submissions and you will no longer have legal rights to it. For example, if the project makes a book with your art inside, you will not have any rights to the proceeds. The Native Prisoner Project is not-for-profit and any money raised will go back into the project or related prison or Native rights work. The project will not publish your art unless you copy and sign this release. However, we can and will, still use your answers to the questions.)

For good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, I hereby acknowledge and agree that you, Kori Cordero c/o Tribal Law And Policy Institute ("you"), shall exclusively own all rights in and to the all works submitted by me to you (the "Works"), including, without limitation, the exclusive worldwide ownership in and to the Works, including the exclusive right to exploit the Works by any and all means and in any and all media throughout the universe whether now known or hereafter developed, and I hereby waive any and all moral rights and related or similar rights in respect thereof. You shall own the entire worldwide copyright in and to each Work as a so-called "work for hire," and in the event it is determined that any of the foregoing does not constitute a work for hire, I hereby irrevocably assign the foregoing rights to you. I hereby acknowledge that you shall have the worldwide right (but not the obligation) in perpetuity, to use and publish my name, likeness and biographical material in connection with the Works. I warrant and represent that I have the right to execute this agreement, that the Works submitted by me are new and original with me and not an imitation or copy of any other material, and that no materials, ideas or other properties furnished by me will violate or infringe upon any common law or statutory right of any individual or entity. I hereby agree to indemnify and hold you harmless from and against any and all damages, liabilities, loss, costs or expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees) arising out of or in connection with any breach or alleged breach by me of any of the warranties, representations or agreements made by me herein. This agreement and all matters directly or indirectly arising out of, under or related to this agreement or any related document or instrument are governed by the Laws of the State of California. I acknowledge and agree that I understand the foregoing and that upon signing my name below, this document shall become legally binding.

Print Name _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please copy and return release along with artwork and answers to questions below to the address for Kori on previous page.

QUESTIONS:

DISCLAIMER: No confidential or incriminating information should be written in response to these questions; assume your responses are being read by prison officials before they reach The Project.

Please answer all of the questions below on a separate sheet of paper. If you know other Native prisoners, please share this survey and encourage them to get involved in the Native Prisoner Project. Once they are done with the survey questions and copy the legal release form, they can pass it on to another Native prisoner. The more data we collect, the better chances we have for making a positive changes for Native prisoners.

TRIBAL AFFILIATION:

Are you enrolled? If so, which Tribe?
Are you eligible for enrollment? If so, which Tribe?
Are you a member of a terminated or unrecognized Tribe? If so, which Tribe?
Have you ever been enrolled, but are now dis-enrolled?
If you are a descendant (do you have a KNOWN Native ancestor), please list your Tribal affiliation and any explanation you wish to share:
Do you identify as Native under the institution's yard politics?

CASE INFORMATION:

Please answer all questions for EACH criminal case, if possible, starting with Juvenile cases and work your way to the present. If you have more than one case, label your answers 1a-1x for your first case, 2a-2x for your second case, 3a-3x for your third case, etc. Or, just answer the questions for all your cases as best you can and we will try to organize them for you. Please answer as completely as possible, we would rather have too much information than not enough.

A. How old where you when the alleged crime occurred?
B. Where exactly did the alleged crime happen? (city and state, Tribal, State, or Federal Land)
C. Where were you held while the case was pending? Were you in a juvenile or adult facility?
D. Were you in your own cell? With juveniles or adults?
E. What crime were you charged with?
F. What crime were you ultimately convicted of?
G. Was there a plea agreement? If so, what were the terms?
H. Who prosecuted? (Feds, State, or Tribe)
I. Did you get prosecuted or convicted more than once for the same alleged crime?
J. Did you get prosecuted once and serve time in two different systems?
K. Did you have a lawyer? If so, what kind? (public defender, private attorney, lay advocate)
L. Was a Diversion Program available? (for example, drug court)
M. Was a Treatment Program available?
N. Where did you serve time? In a juvenile or adult facility? Did you have your own cell? Did you share a cell with Juveniles or Adults?
O. How close was the facility to your family/tribe? Was it hard for people to visit you?
P. What kind of services did you receive? What kind of services were available? (for example, education, job training, religious services, cultural service, etc.)
Q. If services were available, did all Native Juveniles and Native adults get them? If no, why not?

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

R. What was your daily life like as an incarcerated juvenile?
S. What was your daily life like as an incarcerated adult?
T. Have your religious rights been respected? Have there been any recent changes to your ability to practice your religion?
U. Were you ever in the Child Welfare system?
V. Were you ever a sex worker (dancer, stripper, escort, prostitute, etc.)? Or, have you worked in related industries (brothel manager, cocktail waiter, massage parlor etc.)? Or, have you ever been charged with a crime related to sex work? (pandering, trafficking, extortion, etc.) –This question is optional and your answer to it will not be made public; say as much or as little as you like.
W. Is there anything else about your case or experience that you would like us to know?
X. May we put your name and contact information on the website with your art/letter, so folks can contact you directly? Or, would you rather we keep your name and contact info private and just post the letter/art?

Free Speech Society: Forum for prison activists inside and out

March 25, 2015
http://sfbayview.com/2015/03/free-speech-society-forum-for-prison-activists-inside-and-out/
by J. Heshima Denham

The Free Speech Society (FSS) is primarily a movement to defend and preserve the rights of imprisoned activists to inform society of the social contradictions of the prison industrial slave complex in hopes of educating the people not only to the existence of these social ills but their impact on their daily lives. The Free Speech Society is composed of embedded reporters who are committed to exposing the structural inhumanity of the modern prison industrial slave complex (PISC) and its interconnections to the social ills which affect us all. We are your eyes and ears, committed to providing you the truth about the use and misuse of your tax dollars as they feed the insatiable man of the modern prison industrial slave complex.

Recidivism and criminalization are systemic components of the prison industry intentionally manufactured to ensure the ever-expanding influence of the PISC in our daily lives, and it is our job, our responsibility, our duty to inform you of its intricacies.

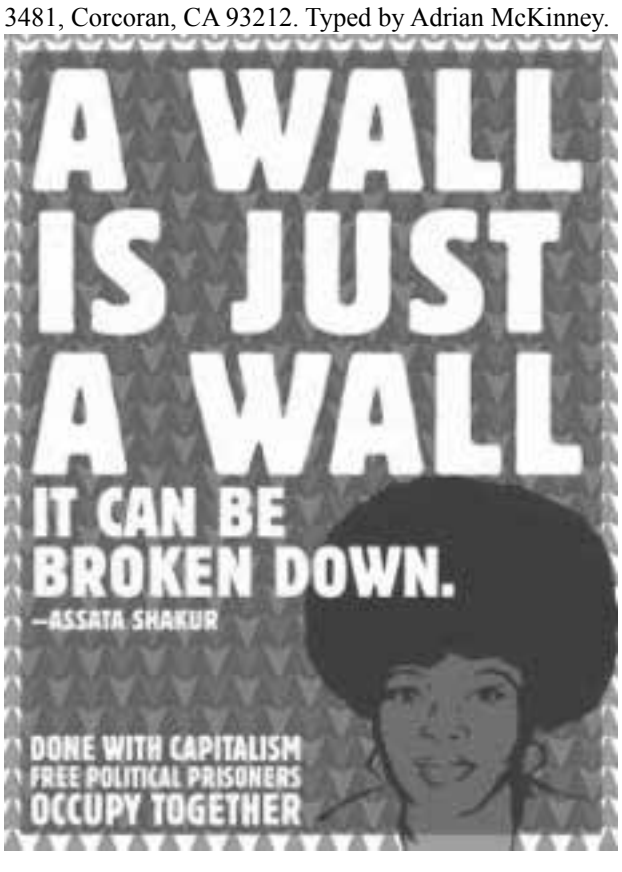
However, the Free Speech Society is not only a movement composed of embedded reporters for the people, but also a forum for progressive activists to analyze these social ills with the intent of developing viable solutions to them, hand in hand with the people. This means the Free Speech Society (FSS) is also a forum for progressive activists and social critics in society at large to ensure that they have a space to work hand in hand with imprisoned activists to articulate and expose the interconnections between the structural inequities inherent in capitalist society and their manifestations in the socially hostile microcosm of prison – racism, sexism, classism etc.

Goals

The present goals of the Free Speech Society are to:
expand the number of activists in society who want to join and support the Free Speech Society;
provide financial and infrastructural support for FSS activists to both carry out their purpose and defend themselves against repression. This means the Free Speech Society will:
develop a "war chest" to cover the costs of civil litigation, copies, filing fees and supporting FSS activists in fulfilling their mission;
develop a team of legal professionals – lawyers, paralegals, investigators etc. – to defend the First Amendment rights of Free Speech Society activists both free and bond;
develop youth activists to form Free Speech Society chapters in their schools, communities and social circles;
develop FSS chapters on college campuses across the U.S. with a focus on journalism majors and activists students;
develop an "emergency response network" to aid imprisoned Free Speech Society activists experiencing censorship, repression or other attacks on their First Amendment rights.

It is our sincerest hope that all of you reading these words will join us in this historic effort and support the FSS with your time, talent and treasure.

For more information and to get involved, contact Steve Marinot, martinot4@gmail.com; Abdul Shakur (s/n J. Harvey), C-48884, CSP-COR-SHU 4B1L-25, P.O. Box 3481, Corcoran, CA 93212; Jona Sinsai (s/n Heshima Denham), J-38283, CSP-COR-SHU, 4B1L-25, P.O. Box 3481, Corcoran, CA 93212; Michael Zaharibu Dorrough, D-83611, CSP-COR-SHU, 4B1L-22, P.O. Box 3481, Corcoran, CA 93212; Kijana Tashiri Askari (s/n M. Harrison), H-54077, CSP-COR-SHU, 4B1L-31, P.O. Box 3481, Corcoran, CA 93212. Typed by Adrian McKinney.



First Person Personal:

I Am My White Ancestors: Self-Portraits Through Time Using Art and Personal Story to Help End Racism

by Anne Mavor

I Am My White Ancestors: Self-Portraits through Time is a multi-media installation that uses my family history to explore the conflicted story of European Americans.

It consists of a series of 7' x 5' life-size photographic self-portraits of me as my ancestors printed on fabric panels, and accompanied by audio diaries from each ancestor's perspectives with opportunities for viewer response and discussion.

The goal is to make European American history personal and visible and to fully claim the positive and negative of my white heritage. Instead of focusing on people of the global majority, this project seeks to reveal and understand the sources of racism, which are the learned behaviors and beliefs of white people.

Over my 40 year art career I have made art that explores personal and social issues. I owe this interest to my time spent in Los Angeles during the 1970s and 1980s when I was part of the Feminist Studio Workshop, the Woman's Building, and the overall feminist art movement. I have used a range of media: performance, writing, book arts, installation, visual art, and graphic design. Some topics have been world hunger, nuclear disarmament, women's roles, disability liberation, and how to combine motherhood and art.

About seven years ago, I decided to focus on visual art and see where it would lead me. The initial work, a series of paintings of ancient sacred sites located mostly in England and Scotland, where my ancestors came from, gradually became an exploration of how family, home, and heritage affects our relationships with the environment and each other. In expanding this interest I initially had the idea to collaborate with a Native American artist to compare our relationships to sacred spaces and place. But I soon realized that I had fallen into the usual pattern of the well-meaning white person appropriating native images and ideas.

So I turned it around and decided to understand my own heritage instead. I knew I had ancestors who had owned slaves and stolen land from the native people in New England and South Carolina. What if I became those ancestors? And what if I took it back further into Europe to understand where their ideas of racism, colonization and genocide came from? I was curious to examine issues such

as immigration, colonization, slavery, war, and what life was like in Europe. I wanted to know how similar or different I might be to my ancestors and what I could learn from their lives. Claiming connection to my family history is also one step towards taking responsibility for the past. What would I have done in their place? What am I doing now that is similar?

The twelve ancestors will reflect a range of experiences from 500 BCE to 1860 AD: Viking conqueror, Scottish witch hunter, English king, South Carolina slaveholders and Indian fighters, Swiss participant in the 1359 Basel massacre of Jews, English noblewoman in the Tudor court, Iron age Celtic tribal member and more. Their stories will reveal how they were oppressed and how they in turn acted out that oppressive behavior on other groups and passed it on.

I expect the project will spark discussions among the viewers and people who read or hear about it. So far, whenever I share my plans and prototype with people I meet, they start telling me about their families. The project gives them permission and a context in which to connect with the past. Many white people have heard stories about their slaveholding ancestors, but rarely had a place to safely speak about it. My greatest hope is that the project could contribute to the dismantling of racism in the United States, an institution that harms our country economically, environmentally, and socially.

The project brings the past to life and reveals how the history of European Americans and European history impacts contemporary life. As an educational project, it brings the past to life to stimulate discussion and curiosity about history and family heritage. In schools it can be used as a jumping off point for projects and discussions in a wide range of classes such as history, political science, sociology, women's studies, fashion, and art history.

As an artistic project, it approaches difficult topics in a personal and vulnerable way. It brings together my interests and skills and helps me to reach new audiences and engage with them. The form of installation blends a range of art forms, including painting, portraiture, costuming, theater, writing, performance, body art, and social engagement. I was also interested in transforming traditional European portraiture into a forum for social commentary. Since the background painting will be executed in the style of each time period, it traces the changing art styles, along with clothing, roles of women and men, historical events, and social mores.

The vertical 7' x 5' portraits are arranged chronologically along the walls of the exhibit space. Digitally printed on fabric, they are in full color and drape to the floor. In each portrait the character (me dressed as my ancestors) poses in front of a hand-painted background in the style of that era and culture. Beside each portrait is a nameplate with basic information about the ancestor such as name, date, where they lived. To hear a short first person narrative about each of their lives, hand held audio players are available for viewers to use. Two or more small tables with chairs are placed in different parts of the gallery space. Each table holds a box with questions on cards for people to ask each other to stimulate discussion and to take away.

Study guides are available for high school or college teachers to use for their classes. Designed as a lightweight and compact traveling show, it will premiere in 2016 at the Alexander Gallery, Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, OR.

For more information about the project, email me at mavorina@gmail.com, or visit http://www.annemavor.com.

100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of Turning the Tide

Now in its 28th year, ***TTT*** has been published in xerox, magazine format, 24-page tabloids, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we print four 8-page issues a year. Now, to restore bi-monthly publication, we have launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed "100X100".

We're looking for 100 people who will donate $100 a year to make it possible for ***TTT*** to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing nearly 1800 copies of each issue into the prisons.

We have set up a GoFundMe site for this campaign, http://gofundme.com/eugzgg, and we are asking people out here in "minimum security" who appreciate the unique perspectives and resources TTT provides to donate.

Chairman Mao said, "Where the broom does not reach, the dust does not vanish of itself," in referring to the need for conscious struggle, criticism and self-criticism, to change oppressive habits and thinking. Well, ***Turning the Tide*** doesn't print itself, or mail itself. The prisoners who get the paper can occasionally contribute a few stamps; their contribution more often comes by writing articles, letters and poems or sending in drawings. Often, they pass the copy of TTT that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners who want to get their own copies and use the paper for study and discussion.

But none of that can happen without you. If you'd like to see ***Turning the Tide*** more frequently yourself, if you'd like to see fresher and more current information and analysis more often, if you want to contribute to breaking down the walls of isolation and separation imposed by the prison system, please contribute.

If you can't manage $100 all at once, you could donate $10 a month. But any donation you make can help. Postage costs for a single issue of TTT are almost $1000 and climbing. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, Twitter followers, and email contacts.

If you live in southern California, you could set up a house meeting with a few friends prepared to donate $10 or $20 each, and ***TTT*** editor Michael Novick will come and speak.

If the campaign is successful, we will put out a fifth issue of TTT in 2015, and then begin publishing every other month in 2016. If the campaign is not successful... we won't suspend publication, but we may have to reduce how many copies we send inside prisons or how often we send them. Postage is quite frankly the biggest expense in our budget. Nobody gets paid to write for TTT, to lay it out or to put content up online and via social media. But the Postal Service is not so generous. We have a handful of people who are sustainers, making a monthly donation, a larger number of people who subscribe once a year or so. But if 100 of you reading this donate $100, we would raise the $6000 necessary to do the mailings, and $4000 to cover the print run, the PO Box and website. That's a bare-bones budget for a 6-issue year, and the other money we have coming in could be used for promotional mailings and advertising to increase our paying subscriber base.

The future of ***Turning the Tide*** is in your hands. Now, while you're thinking about it, go to:

http://gofundme.com/eugzgg and donate.

Then share it with your contacts. With your help, ***Turning the Tide*** can step up to the "urgency of now" -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible. If you think ***TTT*** is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to:

Anti-Racist Action,
PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232

INTERVIEW WITH FORMER POLITICAL PRISONER SEKOU KAMBUI

Q: What got you involved in political activity?

Sekou: As a youngster, I grew up in different parts of the country - Harlem, Orlando, FL, in Springfield, Massachusetts, Cleveland, Ohio, and finally Detroit, Michigan, where my father had begun work with the Ford Motor Company, building cars as a foreman. My parents brought me up from the South (Gadsden, Alabama) to become a part of an experiment orchestrated by a faction of the Civil Rights Movement, very likely the NAACP, where I was chosen to become a part of the school integration efforts after the Brown v. Board of Education ruling in Topeka Kansas. The Civil Rights Organization was selecting Black youth with good grades to integrate different schools across the U.S. - both North and South - to challenge "Jim Crow" racial segregation of the schools.

I was sent back down south with the Freedom Riders that were to be pitted against racial segregation in transportation and the racially segregated department stores. I was returned to the care of my grandparents in Gadsden AL. I had come home from high school and told my grandmother that I wanted to become part of the Civil Rights Movement. She told me at the time that, "Son, I know I'm always telling you to do this/do that, that's right/that's wrong; but this is one of those times you'll have to decide for yourself whether you're really ready for such a serious, obviously dangerous commitment; are you willing to take those kinds of risks with your life?" I became involved with CORE, SCLC, SNCC, and other local Civil Rights Movement organizations in AL and Miss., where I, along with other youth were trained to become resistant to violence that was being used to try and intimidate people involved in the Civil Rights Movement.

I was brought together with a coalition of Black youth, being trained to become future leaders and organizers within the Civil Rights Movement. With my influence among the youth, my little group was often used to form security perimeters around meetings, programs, and events held in churches at night, to attempt to thwart possible violence, bombings by members of the KKK/White Citizens Council or such like. In my adolescence, I was committed to such groups training up young future leaders.

I, and other youth was moved back and forth between the south and north as needed. I joined the BPP (Black Panther Party) and later the PG-RNA (Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika) by way of N.Y. & Detroit; and later the BLA (Black Liberation Army). We moved from one area of the country to another (clandestinely) to organize whatever type of group was needed or more practical for people in that area, or just bring security back-up to protect them from hostile folks. The particular formation we organized might be the Urban League, NAACP, or any other Civil Rights group, depending on the consciousness, condition, and needs of local people -- then we would fade into the background, and they would carry their struggle forward.

Q: How did you become a political prisoner?

Sekou: COINTELPRO came into play. There were attempts to murder us, some people I knew in the Panthers, the Moors, the Civil Rights group[s], and other formations were brutally killed, or blatantly attacked; others were framed up and outright railroaded into prison. We moved into different parts of the country in a more clandestine effort with the BLA (Black Liberation Army). I was captured at one point while leaving Michigan and heading back to the South in 1967, when police (and what was suspected later as the FBI) raided a Civil Rights Movement Organization (said to be hosting illegal activities) wherein there were several veterans of the military and some returning Vietnam War soldiers, who were or had been approached earlier on the night of the riot, by young militants and students asking them to train them in paramilitary tactics.....The students, along with myself (who had a young girl friend off 12th and Buchanan,) left to go home, leaving the militant brothas at the hotel. It had occurred on at least two occasions, where the police had come to my house on the East side of Detroit, several cars deep, running around my family home, saying they'd had a call that a burglary was in progress at this address. After they looked in at my mother cooking dinner at the stove in the kitchen they left. They came a second time, the night the riot began. My mother told me that was no coincidence, I should return to AL that night. I, with two other brothas, left for Birmingham AL immediately (traveling opposite the way we had arrived in Michigan) to where I was residing at the time.

In a hotel room, known later as the Algiers Hotel Incident, Federal National Guard and Detroit PD raided the establishment, and shot up three or four brothers from Birmingham. They were accused of being bank robbers, and said they were shot because one of them had reached for a gun under a pillow - turned out to be a cigarette lighter. However, the true nature surrounding their death at the hands of the police and National Guardsmen is a mystery still left untold. Only a few people know who they were and what they were doing at the Hotel Algiers.

After returning to Birmingham, I was subsequently arrested and charged with murder, but later exonerated and released. I was eventually framed up, rearrested and sent to prison for many, many years. The charges were fraudulent and the testimony against me was coerced by the police and prosecution, which was the only basis for conviction. Later the people who gave this false testimony eventually admitted to my investigators, years later, that they had lied under coercion and pressure from the authorities, but were still terrorized from coming forward to help free me.

Q: How were you able to win your release?

Sekou: We brought together a coalition of many organizations, Paulette D. and their network with the Jericho Movement, Houston ABC membership, with

Top: Sekou selfie. Bottom: Houston ABC call-in flyer.

Heather and Maggie and others working on a telethon for two days running prior to my hearing on June 18, 2014; NYCABCF & ABC, Denver ABC, Tim Fasnacht with ABCF of Philadelphia, Sara Falconer, and ABCF members of Toronto, Canada, Montreal ABCF, Alina Dollat and friends from France; Jennifer Murnan and members with Deep Green Resistance, Freedom Archives and its network under Claude's hand. AL State Senator Hank Sanders, the Chief Spokesperson at my parole hearing, and his wife, Attorney Faya Ora Rose Toure, who was a member of my Defense Committee in support of my release. She had not been able to receive mail from me mailed from the prison, so she became even more enthusiastic over working in support of my release and united with my Defense Committee members from across the country.

Senator Sanders acted as my chief spokesperson at my hearing, and Attorney Toure was my sponsor and worked with my Free Sekou Kambui Defense Committee to show my predicament as a blatant miscarriage of justice too long denied. Youth organizations like the Bloods and Crips, Black Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords and such like, whose incarcerated members knew me, came to aid and assisted the other organizations by downloading a hard copy of the on-line petition put up by my Free Sekou Kambui Petition Drive and Letter Writing Campaign, by way of Arron and others from Denver ABC, at Change.org, putting it on the streets of communities all across Amerikkka, obtaining signatures and forwarding the same to the governor, Parole authorities and Attorney Toure.

The online petition used lynching pictures from "Without Sanctuary," covering contributions to Lynching in the $lave manufacturing $outh. The petition used these photos as exhibits, demanding the same justice, same equal treatment under the law that those who'd perpetrated those spectacle and outright lynchings of Black Men, Women, and children hadreceived. No time was available to obtain proper permissions, but pray such a deliberate oversight will be forgiven, due to the urgency of the moment. "No" was not seen as an option. We had our own Legal Support and Defense Committee for Sekou Kambui focused specifically on my case, and received further support from the Freedom Archives, All of Us or None, and many other groups.

Former political prisoner Linda Evans, of All of Us or none, and her partner Eve Goldberg came down to Alabama to act as liaisons between my Sekou Kambui Legal Defense & Support Committee and Faya Ora Rose Toure. Houston ABC, with group members Heather and Maggie and the rest of their grouping coordinated a two-day telethon call-in campaign to the Alabakkkma Parole Board to demand my freedom on June 16-17, two days prior to my hearing on June 18th, 2014. People came together from across the country and world, from England to Germany to France, with their different political, philosophical, ideological backgrounds, and ideologies, to embrace and promote the idea that I should be released from my illegal, unjust imprisonment.

Today, I am a formerly incarcerated political prisoner because of the initiative taken by the groups I've mentioned herein.

Q: What sustained you while you were locked down all those years?

Sekou: When I went to prison, racism was very openly brutal, very violent. Convicts were being outright murdered with impunity, or beaten to insanity. Prison authorities used hard labor as punishment, and in general exploited convict labor for the State's economic gains. They would throw us into filthy, crap and lice infested cells (called doghouses back then), and overcrowded cages to retaliate against the growing rebelliousness and resistance that was being organized by the Mafundi Lake's and Sekou Kambui's, and a long list of brothas whose names elude me at the moment but came together to form the Inmates For Action organization against the violent aggression of prison guards and administrators, even at the face of death that came easy in those early years of my imprisonment; a street organization called Families For Action, under the leadership of Mrs. Annie L. Norri;, Dr. Steven Whitman, and other family members of Alabama's Incarcerated , including other people from across the country organized support marches on the outside to back up Inmates For Action and its fighting on the inside. There were many brothers killed, beaten down by racist guards (no blacks worked in any prison during those years; not until law suits challenging this condition was won by Willie Beard, Richard Mafundi Lake, Sekou Kambui, and a list of other brothers, to include Wayland Bryant of South Carolina, and Campbell of Massachusetts;) beaten with pick handles, shot in the head and had their head bashed in to cover the bullet wounds, some who were blinded or near-blinded in one eye, or made to suffer brain damage from serious injuries and blows to their heads.

I was encouraged to study law inside, and mentored by Caliph Washington, who won a lawsuit in the late 60s to force the integration of the AL prison system. I became a skilled prison "jailhouse lawyer" and litigator on civil rights/human rights (we couched our litigation in human rights terms from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights violations as well as Civil Rights violations under 42 USCS $ 1983 against prisoners in both state and federal court. We created study groups and organized literacy classes inside the prison, and also pursued litigation to get people the right to an education while inside. We won many victories over time, even had help from Attorney Michael Figures and A. J. Cooper of Mobile AL in our fights. Rep. Charles Rangel saved many an Alabama incarcerated person's life or directed the AL DOC to provide proper and adequate medical care even from Washington, DC. But the state legislators eventually voted against higher education for prisoners, and then the federal government blocked Pell Grants for prisoners. So we set up our own self-help groups and advocated and practiced the idiom: "EACH ONE TEACH ONE," to effectively produce a literate people; we would read to people who couldn't read, or write, and do whatever was necessary to bring together people together from different ethnic groups and backgrounds regardless of the diversity in religious beliefs.

...Continued on next page

SEKOU KAMBUI INTERVIEW

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Q: What are some things you learned while incarcerated that you want to share? How were you able to overcome those differences and build unity?

Sekou: We organized groups by addressing the common needs people had, rather than their differences. We would focus on meeting those basic human needs, that were not being met by the $tate $lave $ystem. Brothers who were strong in math, reading, comprehension skills would help those who were weak in math, reading, comprehension skills, or brothers who could read would help those who couldn't read or couldn't read so well to insure they improved. We did poetry readings, art-craft training to attract brothas with skills they didn't know they had; we put together workshops and cultural art programs and exhibitions as such activities seemed to get people enthusiastic about expressing themselves. Maybe they would start by reading a poem and realize they could also write a poem.

We didn't allow ourselves to get hung up on debating our personal, ethnic, racial, even political levels of consciousness. These differences were put aside, and we focused on meeting people's basic personal needs, writing their letters or teaching them to write better themselves; helped them learn how to get their GED, and then made the $tate give them the exams; we styled our efforts of self help as "each one teach one".

The organization that was co-founded by myself and Mafundi Lake, and several other brothas, behind the walls to provide an umbrella of protection for youth, and a means of obtaining knowledge of liberation ethics for the young revolutionary, or prison human/civil rights activists, was called in the early years "Inmates For Action." It evolved into a second grouping identified as the "Inmates For Action-Atmore/Holman Collective," even later: the "Social Consciousness Development Group" (SCDG), and its sister organization that evolved out of this group, the "Cultural Awareness Think Tank" (the CATT). Clandestinely speaking: the Black Panther Org.

At this time, the SCDG is being revised and set up to become a Self Help Community Organization here in Dothan, AL under the leadership of Jennifer Murnan and Sekou Kambui. As I left the prison, aside from the organizations I left in place, there is now the fast growing "FREE ALABAMA MOVEMENT," itself taking up the banner and legacy of the previously mentioned organizations within the AL DOC, everyday involved in the same human/civil political and economic rights struggle. They are taking a stand,demanding freedom from mass incarceration, long-term imprisonment, blatant physical abuse from prison officials, deprivation of human rights, inadequate medical conditions, abusive and hostile living conditions, etc. The struggle for human dignity don't stop! Forward With the Revolutionary Struggle Behind Enemy Lines! SUPPORT THE FAM MOVEMENT OF GEORGIA, ALABAMA, AND MISSISSIPPI NOW!!!

Q: What recommendations or lessons do you have for the effort to free all political prisoners?

Sekou: We just had a conference call here in AL about how to build a coalition of all different organizations. I said we need to address the situation of Sundiata Acoli, who was given a parole date and then not released. We can't allow the state to play RUSSIAN ROULETTE with people's lives; we can't let more people die in prison like Merle & Phil Africa; one moment they are seen in the best of health and the next, they're doing too poorly to live.

We have to step up support and activity on the outside. Sometimes, we need to focus our attention on a particular individual at a critical time. It's not about making someone a "star" -- it's just that by focusing collectively on one individual when its needed most, and at a time we can make a real impact on their plight, that we will strengthen the collective ability to get everyone out of prison (ALIVE). People on the inside or the outside have different skills or constituencies that they can bring together to put pressure on the state to release these freedom fighters. Then we can connect together, build bridges from one Legal Defense and Support Committee to another, helping linking an individual case of a particular political prisoner to all the political prisoners and to all the prisoners facing and dealing with racism and injustice, and mass incarceration.

We're connecting with the young people out protesting racist police murders. There's a coalition here in AL. I talked recently with some youth in the Black Lives Matter and Ferguson type formations. There's a Jubilee Arts Festival that's being planned in Selma, around the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March. The meeting was instrumental in reminding me about how I began as a youth, traveling, and training in the civil rights movements of the 50's, 60's, and 70's; just like these young people are doing today, going around the country learning how to organize resistance against police abuse and injustice. That's how I began in my youth, learning street organizing and community work on a basic human level.

We have a situation today where police around the country are murdering young Black men, women and children with impunity; everybody can step up to the plate to deal with this age-old phenomenon, not only New Afrikan or Black people. We have to use these events as opportunities to raise the level of consciousness of all people, and organize activities and method of struggle that all people benefit from.

Who's next? Don't wait for the next attack. European or (White) people or other ethnic groups and nationalities shouldn't wait until the police attack or kill one of their children. Why wait? Come forward and let's unite around the issue[s] at hand. Let's dismantle these forms of brutality and violence against our children NOW!!

Please note, once these PP/POW's are released, they need support units in place; don't abandon them. Some have no family or friends outside after long term imprisonment. They need economical, psychological, even spiritual support from you once they are released by your efforts. DON'T ABANDON THEM! Stand beside them until they are on their feet, and can stand alone!

Were it not for the continued support and backup of Friends and groups instrumental in helping me regain my freedom still standing beside me, giving me their love and support, I could very well become a recidivist statistic of the $tate. (But tell my enemies and Nay-Sayers: 'DON'T COUNT ON IT!)

Note: *You can reach Sekou Kambui at P.O. Box 195, Dothan AL 36301. or at: sekoykambui@gmail.com or call him anytime at: 334 200 9364. He has been dealing with health issues resulting from his long incarceration and lack of proper, adequate medical care while incarcerated, but is continuing to organize on the outside for justice and to free all political prisoners.*

BLACK POWER MARCH 16th--BLACK LIVES MATTER DAY

Black Panther Gun Group leads openly ARMED March against police terrorism!

A colossal event for our people has taken place! Black Riders went to Texas from California to march with the Huey. P Newton Gun Club (an ARMED Black United Front). We marched on the Texas state capitol openly armed with 40 people in honor of Michael Brown, Ezell Ford, Eric Garner, and Clinton Allen (he was murdered by Texas pigs)!

This action was taken while the Austin, Texas State Senate legislators were on the floor of the capitol debating Open Carry Gun Rights, which is designed to keep Black and oppressed people defenseless and powerless against pig terrorism. It's similar to the California Mulford Act process designed to strip the original Black Panther Party and our people of our 2nd Amendment rights to bear arms in the early 1960s.

In 1967, the original Black Panthers Oakland Chapter marched on the Sacramento state capitol openly armed, in 1968 the original Black Panthers Seattle Chapter marched on their state capitol openly armed, and we follow that same Panther tradition in 2015. I was proud to be there with my comrades who were legally armed and fed up with White Supremacy, Capitalism, and U.S. Imperialism.

Our comrades were openly armed with REAL BULLETS and REAL A.K.'s, M-16's, and SHOTGUNS. All this took place in front of the shocked faces of the racist Texas police, who kept their distance during the Armed march! Now that was a Black is Beautiful sight to behold! Strong, Powerful - Black Men and Women who refuse to bow down to police Terrorism!

The non-indictment of the pigs that murdered Michael Brown in Ferguson, Ezell Ford in Los Angeles, Eric Garner in New York, and Clinton Allen in Texas proves once again that we can't expect the pigs to investigate the pigs. That's like asking Frank James to investigate his brother Jesse James, when both of them are racist cowboys. We must defend ourselves by any means necessary. Point J of our upgraded "10 Point Platform and Program" called the Black Commune Program, clearly states that:

"J. We Ride for an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of Black People. We Ride because we believe we can end police brutality in our Black Community by organizing Black Self-Defense groups dedicated to defending our Black community from racist police oppression and brutality. The 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives a right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all Black People should arm themselves for Self-Defense."

The main goal of March 16th was to educate oppressed Black People on the need of community ARMED self-defense, through what Minister of Defense Dr. Huey P. Newton called Observation and Participation! Dressed in all Black with berets, standing tall with long weapons in front of the State Legislature, we exposed to the world that we will defend our people and we will win our freedom from modern-day slavery!

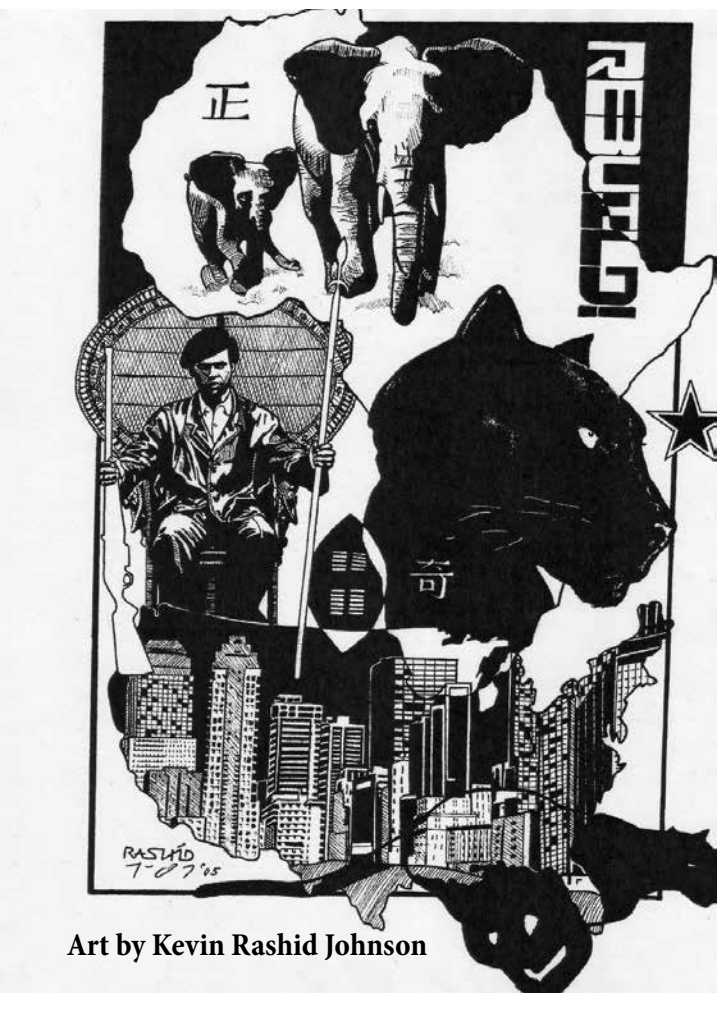
Long Live the Huey P. Newton Gun Club!!
We must continue to build a unified Nation Wide Defense Force against Racist Police Terrorism!
BLACK LIVES DO MATTER!

To see actual footage of the mission go to youtube or google - Armed Black Panthers March on Texas State Capitol - March 16th !

Sincerely,
General T.A.C.O (Taking All Capitalists Out) A.K.A Wolverine Shakur
Black Riders - New Generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense!

Black Power! All Power to the People! RBG 4 LIFE!

You can reach the Black Riders Liberation Party, New Generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, at PO Box 8297, Los Angeles, CA 90008, blackriders1996@gmail.com or by calling 602-842-2757 (BRLP), or on facebook, Black-Riders-Liberation-Party. The BRLP has been setting up new chapters rapidly around the US, and is building a nation-wide prison chapter. JOIN NOW!



Art by Kevin Rashid Johnson

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ★ July 4: XRF Presents Farce of July, 2-10pm Chuco's Justice Center
- ★ July 14, KPFK LSB election registration & membership deadline, kpfk.org
- ★ July 23, 7p "If the SHU Fits" Peace Ctr, 3916 Sepulveda Bl., Culver City
- ★ July-Sept-100X100 Fundraising Campaign for TTT gofundme.com/eugzgg
- ★ July 25, International Day of Solidarity with Anti-fascist prisoners
- ★ Black August, sunrise to sunset fast, training, study and dedication to peoples' uplift.
- ★ August 29th Anniversary of Chicano Moratorium

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- MUMIA ABU JAMAL

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TURNING THE TIDE

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CHARLESTON MASSACRE

REST IN PEACE AND POWER

Top row, left to right: Rev. Clementa Pinckney, Cynthia Hurd, Rev. Daniel Simmons, Sr.
Middle row: Susie Jackson, Tywanza Sanders, Myra Thompson
Bottom row: Rev. Sharonda Coleman Singleton, Rev. Depayne Middleton Doctor, Ethel Lance

SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST RACIST MURDER IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT!

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★ Flood the System
★ International Day of Solidarity with Antifa Prisoners
★ Free Oscar Lopez!
★ **Black Riders** Interview in VICE Magazine
★
★ and Much More!

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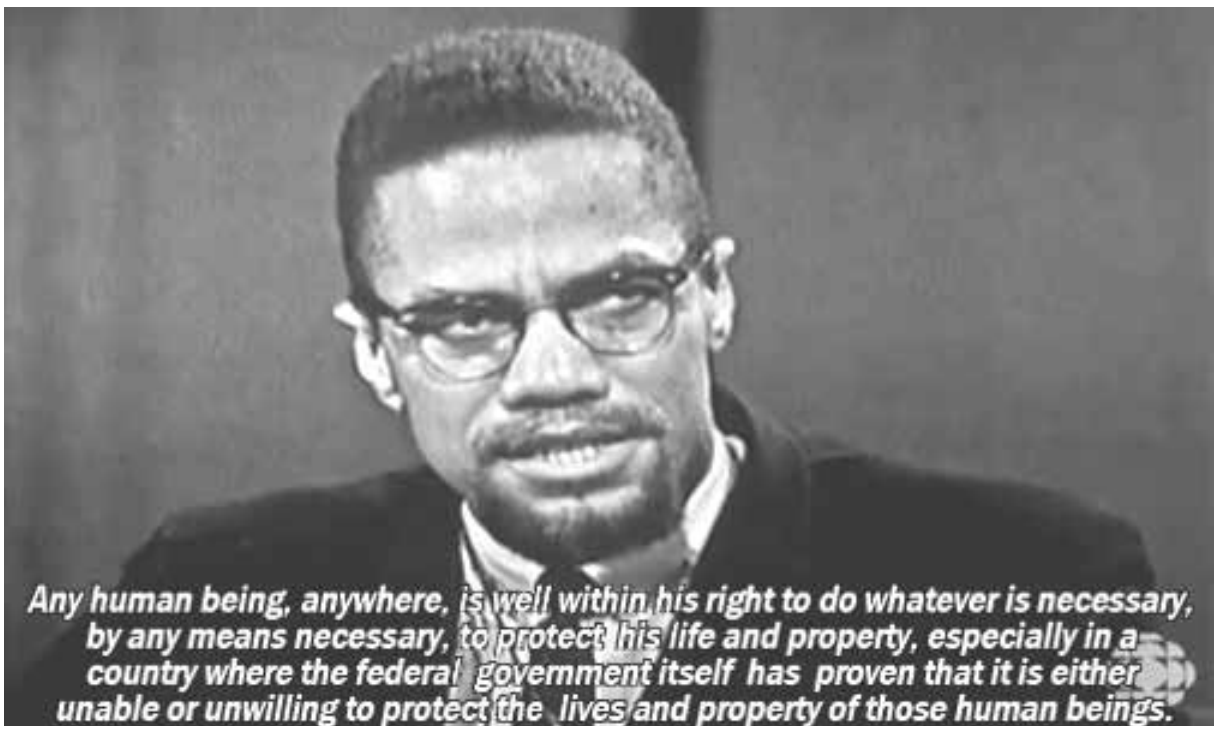
The Roots of the Charleston Massacre

by Michael Novick*, Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)*

The mass murders of Rev. Clementa Pinckney, Cynthia Hurd, Rev. Daniel Simmons, Sr., Susie Jackson, Tywanza Sanders, Myra Thompson, Rev. Sharonda Coleman Singleton, Rev. Depayne Middleton Doctor, and Ethel Lance at Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina was an act of racist terror by avowed white supremacist Dylann Storm Roof. May his victims rest in peace and power. This atrocity has provoked widespread efforts to grapple with or spin the killings by Republicans, Democrats, corporate and alternative media, various movement organizations and others.



As is now widely known, the church where the massacre took place was founded by Denmark Vesey, among others, and burned to the ground in the wake of the slave rebellion he organized. It was rebuilt, shuttered in a prohibition against Black churches during Jim Crow, and eventually offered a podium to both Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King among others. Rev. Pinckney had been elected to both houses of the South Carolina state legislature and had been associated with the effective and growing Moral Mondays convergences in neighboring North Carolina. His assassin probably knew this, though most of Roof's reported remarks, and the white supremacist ranting and posturing on his "Last Rhodesian" website, his Facebook page and to his friends and house-mate, were directed much more widely at the Black community as a whole, and his actions were clearly intended to terrorize that community and provoke a race war.

What can we learn about the corporate parties and media, the white supremacist movement, broader 'white' society, and the current state of peoples' movements, from the way they have responded to the massacre? What lessons can we learn to advance a struggle that can uproot racism and create a world where such racist terror can no longer take place?

Shadow Boxing with Symbols: Too Little, Too Late

The Democrats and Republicans, each in their own way, tried to divert from and distort the issues. Democrats focused on gun control, linking this to other mass murders (also typically carried out by young, alienated white men, but not so blatantly racist in their targets). Republicans tried to pretend it was an attack on Christians, as if Emanuel AME was chosen because it was a church, not because it was a center of Black solidarity and community. Both were forced by the reality of the situation, and by progressives and Black civil rights figures, to acknowledge the centrality of racism as the issue.

But the spin doctoring and damage control by the parties and in the media continued. SC Gov. Nikki Haley, who only recently had refused to consider the idea of abandoning the Confederate battle flag because there was no problem with it expressed by any of the corporations she was seeking to attract to the state, suddenly decided the flag had to go, as did a number of other local politicians. Various Republican presidential aspirants such as Sen. Ted Cruz, suddenly found it politic to return contributions from a leader of the Conservative Citizens' Council, whose vile racist propaganda the killer had credited with opening his eyes and turning him into a racialist.

These maneuvers also cast a light on the deep-seated racism within broad sectors of 'white' society, especially in the South. Polls showed 70% opposition in South Carolina to striking the Confederate flag. Amazon.com, which continued selling various versions of the Confederate flag even as other retailers and manufacturers began to drop it, reported sales increases of 2300% on one flag, and over 1800% on another. The host of "Meet the Press" chose to run a segment interviewing a number of imprisoned murderers, all Black men, most convicted of individual shootings, on the show that also dealt with the Charleston mass murders. The cops who arrested the 'suspect,' blatantly handled him with kid gloves, taking him to Burger King for a meal because he hadn't eaten much, decking him out with a bullet proof vest, and handling him with evident care during his 'perp walk.' Liberal media analysts suggested that the situation showed that US is in fact becoming less racist than in the days when lynching and burning Black men were occasions for mass popular participation and entertainment, because "only 200,000" (!) people were subscribed to the kind of nakedly white supremacist websites that the killer had drawn inspiration from.

What About the Right to Self-Defense?

But if we expected more from movement figures and organizations, we would in the main also have been disappointed. There were critiques of the media and politicians, demanding that they refer to the massacre as terrorism, and thereby tacitly accepting the 'war on terrorism' rhetoric that has dominated corporate politics for the past decade and a half. There were demands to remove the Confederate flag as a symbol of hate and oppression from state houses, big box stores and on-line vendors. There were prayer vigils, and calls for deepening the "conversation" about race, emphasizing how far from a "post-racial" society we still are. At least the grim reality of what it means to be Black in the white supremacist USA put a stop to some of the diversionary social media focus on the 'white' woman who was passing as "Black" at the NAACP in Washington State.

Hardly heard in the corporate press or political discourse, in most alternative/social media or the movement was any call for self-defense. Yet, as Malcolm X said 50 (!) years ago, "Last but not least, I must say this concerning the great controversy over rifles and shotguns. The only thing I've ever said is that in areas where the government has proven itself either unwilling or unable to defend the lives and the property of Negroes, it's time for Negroes to defend themselves. Article number two of the Constitutional amendments provides you and me the right to own a rifle or a shotgun. It is constitutionally legal to own a shotgun or a rifle."

There were welcome calls from anti-racist white formations like White People for Racial Justice in Los Angeles, an action collective associated with the Alliance of White Anti-Racists Everywhere (AWARE-LA), and from SURJ (Standing Up for Racial Justice) nationally for white people to examine the roots of the Charleston Massacre in broader societal white supremacy, and wider complicity by all people of European descent in systems of white privilege that uphold and in turn are maintained by the oppression, subjugation and devaluation of Black people and Black lives.

The Real Roots of Racism

But we, particularly people of European descent, must go further and deeper. White supremacy and racism in the US are rooted in a global system of settler-colonial capitalism, land theft, genocide, racial chattel slavery and its consequences. White privilege is the manifestation, consequence, and flip-side of Black oppression and exploitation, violation of indigenous sovereignty, and the Eurocentric imposition of private property relations on both land and people to extract profit through domination. This is a global Empire, and it is an empire here within the US itself as well. White supremacy, white privilege and racism can only be uprooted by overturning that system of settler colonialism and imperialism, here in the US and throughout the world. Nothing short of decolonization, self-determination of oppressed and colonized people and a revolutionary social, political, economic and ecological transformation of the entire society will do.

The complacency, compliance and complicity of so-called white people, even those who profess to be opposed to conscious or naked white supremacy, is an essential bulwark of that system, the 'consent of the governed' without which no Empire, no matter how powerful or oppressive, can long endure. The flag of the USA, symbol of settler colonialism and manifest destiny, of expansion from 13 settler colonies hugging the Atlantic seaboard to a continental Empire and beyond, seizing territories from and ethnically cleansing Native nations, colonizing the Arctic and the Pacific, including Polynesia, is as much a symbol of white supremacy and racism as is the Confederate flag. Witness the recent hysteria that greeted Eric Sheppard, 21, of Valdosta GA, a young Black man who trod on a US flag in a protest at his college campus of police killings of Black people, and is now a political prisoner facing trial after police claimed a book bag found on the campus with a gun in it belonged to him. You can donate to support Eric Sheppard at https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/eric-sheppard-support-initiative#/story. Eric Sheppard has said, "You care more about a cloth on the ground and me stepping on it with a boot, than a black man's death? You're out of your fucking mind. White folks have been out of their fucking minds since they stepped out of Europe."

The connection and interpenetration of white supremacy in the US with a global system growing out of European conquest and colonization in Africa, Asia, America and Oceania is very clear in the case of Dylann Storm Roof, identified as the killer in the Charleston massacre. He saw himself in the Rhodesians, a settler colonial bastion that ceased to exist before he was born. His anti-Semitism was rooted in his racism towards Black people, whom he stereotypically believed were being agitated by the Jews. He absorbed the rhetoric of white nationalists who see themselves (correctly) as a minority within the global population, and imagine their racial "purity" and "superiority" to be threatened by migration, miscegenation, and majority rule. He made it clear that if you scratch a so-called "white separatist" or advocate of "white pride," you will find an exterminationist advocate of white power.

In an Empire there are no citizens, only subjects

But there is no way to purge a "white nation" of white nationalism, no way to seal off and stigmatize Nazis and naked conscious white supremacists from the larger domain of white identification with the Empire and the oppressors. We can't pretend that because we are not a virulent, violent racist like Roof, we can absolve ourselves of responsibility for systemic racism or colonialism. White privileges bind us and blind us to the system that provides them, as a substitute for human rights, and in return for our participation in that system; privilege is a method of social control. Until we find the Stars and Stripes as abhorrent as the Stars and Bars, or the face of slave-owners and land-thieves George Washington or Andrew Jackson on the currency as repellent as a statue of Jefferson Davis or Nathan Bedford Forrest, the Confederate general who founded the Ku Klux Klan, it will remain true that, as Malcolm X said, "Everything south of the Canadian border is the South."

Racism is not just embedded deep in the culture of US white society; because of the fundamental nature of settler colonialism and expansionist conquest to the political entity called the United States of America, white supremacy and racism are the bedrock of the economic, political and social system in operation here. Race is a mental and social construct, but racism is a material reality that undergirds the operations of capital and government in banking, farming, housing, commerce, transportation, education, entertainment, and every other facet of life.

White anti-racists, whites who claim to be color-blind, white progressives, all need to acknowledge that when you point a finger at the Nazis, or even the 1%, three fingers are pointing back at yourself. An authentically anti-racist movement can only be a self-critical, revolutionary movement, a movement prepared to ***fight***, shoulder to shoulder, which is what an ally does, by any and every means necessary, to end a system of white supremacy, settler-colonial capitalism, and Empire once and for all.

Comments and feedback welcome to antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

Saturday, July 25, 2015
International Day of Solidarity with Antifascist Prisoners

Antifascists fight against those who—in the government or in the streets—dream of imposing their fascist and other Far Right nationalist nightmares on the rest of us. Throughout the world, Islamophobic, anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant, and racist bigotries are on the rise. Antifas are on the frontline in confronting these reactionary politics, and we will not forget our comrades imprisoned in the course of this struggle.

The July 25 International Day of Solidarity with Antifascist Prisoners originated in 2014 as a Day of Solidarity with Jock Palfreeman, an Australian who is imprisoned in Bulgaria for defending two Romani men from an attack by fascist football hooligans. Groups around the world took action: holding demonstrations, benefits supporting the Bulgarian Prisoners Association, writing to Jock, and talking about the plight of the Romani and Sinti people in general.

In 2015 we would like to expand this day of solidarity to all antifascist prisoners around the world. We encourage groups to take the day to plan an event of their choice—whether it is a letter writing, demonstration, benefit, or other action—and to focus on the prisoners and related issues that are of most importance to them locally.

Below is a list of global antifascist prisoners; if there is an antifa prisoner who is missing, please e-mail us with his or her details and the language(s) they can read.

No Pasaran! Until All Are Free!

Send prisoner updates, announcements for local events, and additional group endorsements to nycantifascistaction@gmail.com.

LIST OF ENDORSING GROUPS:

NYC Antifa (US)
One Peoples Project (US)
RASH Florida (US)
NYC Anarchist Black Cross (US)
TORCH Antifa Network (US)
Brighton Anarchist Black Cross (UK)
Slackbastard (Australia)
Anti Fascist Action Sydney (Australia)
Projekt Antifa (Denmark)
Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror

LIST OF ANTIFA PRISONERS:
EUROPE
Belarus

Roman Bogdan

Roman Bogdan was arrested on April 15, 2015, as part of the long-going state repression of anti-fascists in Brest, stemming from a fight between anti-fascists and fascists on May 8, 2013. Roman is facing up to fifteen years in prison on charges of group hooliganism and weapons charges. He can read Russian and simple English phrases.
Roman Bogdan
224030
Brest
ul. K. Marksa, 86,
SIZO-7
BELARUS

Dzmitry Stsyashenka

Dzmitry Stsyashenka was arrested on October 4, 2013, for his alleged involvement in a fight between antifascists and neo-Nazis in Brest on May 8, 2013, that sent one Nazi to the hospital. He is also accused of another fight with neo-Nazis during the summer of 2013. He was sentenced to four years in prison, but in 2014 his term was reduced by one year due to an amnesty. He can read Russian and simple English phrases.
Dzmitry Stsyashenka
224030
Brest,
ul. K. Marksa, 86,
SIZO-7
BELARUS
http://abc-belarus.org/?cat=3&lang=en

Dzmitry Zvan'ko

Dzmitry Zvan'ko was arrested for his alleged involvement in a fight between anti-fascists and neo-Nazis in Brest on May 8, 2013, that sent one Nazi to the hospital. He was arrested the next day, along with four other people, in a police raid on the homes of known anti-fascists. Dzmitry filed a complaint to the prosecutor about psychological and physical abuse while in custody. He was accused of malicious group hooliganism and serious bodily assault and faced up to ten years of prison. Dzmitry was found guilty and sentenced to five years of prison, but after paying off about 4,000 euro in damages he was granted amnesty, which has reduced his term by one year. He can read Russian and simple English phrases.
Dzmitry Zvan'ko
225295
Brestskaya oblast Ivatsevichi
p/b 20 IK-22
Volchi Nory
BELARUS
http://abc-belarus.org/?cat=3&lang=en

Bulgaria

Jock Palfreeman

Jock Palfreeman is an Australian anti-fascist political prisoner serving a twenty-year prison sentence in Bulgaria for the rather mysterious death of a neo-Nazi football hooligan who was part of a group attacking two Romani men in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2007. Jock came to the aid of the Romani, and quickly found himself the focus of the attack. Bulgarian authorities did everything they could to ensure that Jock did not receive a fair trial, and after his sentencing have refused–in contravention of their own treaties–to transfer him to Australia to serve the rest of his time closer to his family. Jock wants donations for him sent to the Bulgarian Prisoners' Association, which he is part of. He can read English and Bulgarian.
Jock Palfreeman
Sofia Central Prison
21 General Stoletov Boulevard
Sofia 1309, BULGARIA

www.freejock.com
http://www.brightonabc.org.uk/jock.html

Russia

Aleksandr Kolchenko

Aleksandr Kolchenko was arrested in Crimea on May 17, 2014, along with several others, and accused by Russian authorities of participation in a "terrorist group" which planned explosions near the Eternal Fire memorial and the Lenin monument in Simferopol, as well as having sabotaged railway tracks and electricity lines. Aleksandr is also alleged to have carried out two arson attacks in April: against the headquarters of the Russian Unity-Party, and the Russian Community of Crimea. He was transferred to Moscow and is being kept in draconian conditions. His lawyers are under a gag order, and have been refused elementary rights to defend him. He faces fifteen-to-twenty years in a labor camp.

Russian authorities claim that Aleksandr is a member of Right Sektor, a Ukrainian ultra-right nationalist organization, but he has no connection to the group—a fact confirmed by relatives and friends. Moreover, Aleksandr is an antifascist and anarchist who consistently opposed nationalistic movements in Crimea and faced constant fascist attacks for his activism. For example, after a film screening about murdered anti-fascist journalist Anastasiya Baburova, he was attacked by thirty Nazis with knives.

Since this case is highly political, Aleksandr's legal costs are high, around 850 euro per month. The investigation has created a heavy financial strain on local ABC groups, and there is a call for financial support and information distribution. You can make donations via PayPal to abc-msk@riseup.net or using a bank account (write to the same e-mail address for details).
Kolchenko Aleksandr Aleksandrovich, (born 1989),
Lefortovskiy val, 5, p/b 201
111020 Moscow
RUSSIA
Please note: Moscow ABC advises that letters in English are seldom accepted in Russian prisons, so please write only in Russian (try using a translation program), or just send photos and postcards.

http://avtonom.org/en/news/repressions-against-crimean-activists-political-context
http://wiki.avtonom.org/en/index.php/Aleksandr_Kolchenko

Alexey Sutuga

Alexey Sutuga is a longtime anarchist and anti-fascist who was arrested in April 5, 2014, for a fight with members of the ultra right in Moscow. He was sentenced on September 30, 2014, to three years and one month in prison for his alleged involvement in the fight.

However, this sentence comes in the context of an earlier case from April 2012, when he was arrested for allegedly taking part in a fight at a punk/hardcore concert in Moscow on December 17, 2011. The conflict began after club security, consisting of members of the far right, provoked guests. The concert was stopped prematurely because of the fight, but the security then attempted to take some of the audience hostage and threatened to call their nationalist football hooligan friends in reprisal. The audience members resisted and the club security opened fire with rubber coated metal bullets. However, the club security was neutralized and sent to the hospital. That earlier case against Alexey and several others was eventually dropped in January 2014 on the eve of the Sochi Winter Olympics as part of the amnesty bill, approved as a PR stunt on initiative of Vladimir Putin.

Earlier this year, Alexey was in transit to a prison in Irkutsk, Siberia. We are waiting to confirm his new address. Please note: Moscow ABC advises that letters in English are seldom accepted in Russian prisons, so please write only in Russian (try using a translation program), or just send photos and postcards.

http://wiki.avtonom.org/en/index.php/Alexey_Sutuga

Sweden

Joel Almgren

Joel Almgren was sentenced to five years and six months for defending a local community-organized anti-racist demonstration in Stockholm against a brutal Nazi attack on December 15, 2013. The peaceful protest—against fascist assaults on local anti-racists and the dissemination of Nazi propaganda in area schools—was attacked with knives, sticks, and glass bottles by the most militant Nazi group in Sweden. Anti-fascists at the scene defended the demonstration from the attack and many were injured themselves. Joel has over 4080 USD in fines, and his supporters are asking for help raising the money. The group can be contacted at the web site below. He can read Swedish and English.
Joel Almgren
KVA Tidaholm
Skogsholmvägen
522 85 Tidaholm
SWEDEN

https://www.facebook.com/freejoel

Linus Soinjoki

Linus Soinjoki was charged and convicted for actions related to his involvement in the anti-fascist movement in Sweden. He was given fourteen months in prison and began serving his sentence in mid-May 2015. Linus can read Swedish and English.
Linus Soinjoki
KVA Västervik Norra
Box 248 593 23
Västervik
SWEDEN

http://heyevent.com/event/keiajdw7gqvtga/free-linus-break-down-the-walls

NORTH AMERICA
United States

Luke O'Donovan

On New Year's Eve of 2013, Luke O'Donovan attended a house party in Reynoldstown, a neighborhood in Atlanta, Georgia. Luke was seen dancing with and kissing other men at the party. Later in the night he was insulted with homophobic slurs, and attacked by several people at once. Luke unsuccessfully attempted to escape, at which point several witnesses reported watching between five and twelve men ganging-up on Luke and stomping on his head and body, evidently with the intent to kill him. He was called a faggot before and during the attack, throughout the course of which he and five others were stabbed. Luke was subsequently imprisoned and charged with five counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon as well as one count of attempted murder.

Luke's trial concluded on August 12, 2014, when he accepted a negotiated plea deal. He agreed to a two year sentence beginning that day, and then eight years of harsh probation. The judge also banished Luke from the state of Georgia for the term of his probation. He can read English.
Luke Patrick O'Donovan
#1001372271
Washington State Prison
P.O. Box 206
Davisboro, GA 31018 USA

https://letlukego.wordpress.com/

Jason Hammond

Jason Hammond accepted a non-cooperating guilty plea and was sentenced to forty-one months on January 2015 for his part in an organized direct action taken against a group of white supremacists. In 2012, a group of racists and white supremacists organized a White Nationalist Economic Summit in the Chicago suburb of Tinley Park. Groups of anti-fascists and anti-racists from the Midwest confronted the meeting and successfully shut down the event through a righteous melee. In the aftermath, five antifascists were arrested, and dubbed the Tinley Park 5. The five were sentenced to upwards of three years and all have since been released. Jason was arrested later, and is the last person still in jail for this action. He can read English.
Jason Hammond, M50190
P.O. Box 500
Vandalia, IL 62471 USA

http://freejasonhammond.blogspot.com/
https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/0w0Ma/ab/94SfS3

Four years since our hunger strikes began, none of our core demands have yet been met: Our protracted struggle must continue

by Mutope Duguma, Pelican Bay short corridor, June 21, 2015

Excerpted from: http://sfbayview.com/2015/06/four-years-since-our-hunger-strikes-began-none-of-our-core-demands-have-yet-been-met-our-protracted-struggle-must-continue/

2015 marks four years since we collectively got together and launched our peaceful protests to end long term solitary confinement. We have not been able to get any policy, outside of STG (Security Threat Group) 1 and 2 and SDP (Step Down Program), which we have to keep in mind is again CDCr continuing to violate our civil and human rights by holding men and women in these solitary confinement torture chambers – SCTC – indefinitely.

Prisoners been held for over four decades for no other reason than a prison label called prison gang validation, based on confidential information provided to prison officials by snitches, rats, informers, turncoats etc. And in looking into a lot of these cases, we would learn that it was the prison officials who manufactured this information in order to subject prisoners to a life of hell.

We have been able to examine, evaluate and investigate the STG and SDP policies and we unanimously reject them, because, simply put, they are more of the same. They empower the previous policies that we were initially peacefully protesting.

Individual accountability

The individual accountability Core Demand No. 1 (End group punishment and administrative abuse) was crucial for establishing a fair and just policy. CDCr's power stems from the threats that they place over prisoners by labeling us with groups and holding us responsible for the actions of that group.

That practice is flawed; other than a gang title by which the group or individuals are labeled as members or associates, simply based on the group's alleged gang title, nothing else allows for CDCr to blatantly target racial groups and individuals. Prison officials want these targeted individuals off of General Population in order to subject them to SCTC. But individual accountability, satisfying Core Demand No. 1, would have put an end to this policy, where predominantly white "prison gang" officials target mostly New Afrikans and Mexicans – racism.

These validations are a matter of life and death, because to subject and isolate prisoners for indefinite periods of time in SCTC takes a serious toll on our health and mental stability, regardless if we appear to be a reflection of strength. We see how young human beings can naturally develop into strong men and women under natural circumstances. We also see how, if able to grow older, they develop eventually into fragile individuals, so as you age, it's a matter of life and death.

Active or inactive

After six years of waiting to go before the DRB, a prisoner should be referred and seen, regardless if it's an active or inactive recommendation or if it's a validation as active, and should see the DRB immediately. To tell someone who has been deemed active that he or she has to wait for their DRB case-by-case review, which the same CDCr official refers you to, is a grave injustice.

I believe it's a 14th Amendment violation under the equal protection clause, because prisoners being reviewed for active/inactive re-validation should also be seen by OCS and then the DRB, which makes the final decision based on the OCS recommendation. This would not allow CDCr gang officials to discriminate against prisoners they want to retain in SCTC, because under the new policy, whether you like it or not, as soon as you are in a SDP Step 1-4, you are on a three-year course toward getting the hell out of the SCTC.

We, in our Core Demand No. 2, demanded in part, an end to the active/inactive review, because it retains prisoners indefinitely in SCTC without any real due process or procedural due process. The debriefing policy is still in effect and its sole purpose is to have prisoners snitch on one another for a release from the SCTC that they are held on indefinitely. We, in part of our Core Demand No. 2 (Abolish the debriefing policy and modify active/inactive gang status criteria), have demanded an end to this debriefing policy that tortures men and women for information on other men and women by using state sanctioned powers to carry out their attacks.

Long term solitary confinement

We, in our Core Demand No. 3, demanded an end to long term solitary confinement. We see that CDCr has basically just condemned us to three more years in isolation, which amounts to torture and long term solitary confinement.

National and international opinion clearly deems long term solitary confinement torture, but these laws are not respected by CDCr, which reduces these laws to opinions. We continue to see prisoners die due to medical neglect and inadequate medical treatment.

Health care and food

We all hear the horror stories – and have our own that have routinely been allowed to occur – where countless men and women have died in agonizing pain due to not being diagnosed or not treated for medical conditions that eventually manifest into deadly diseases that the prisoners suffer the rest of their stay in SCTC. In part, we have demanded in our Core Demand No. 4 that inadequate medical treatment cease.

We continue to be fed non-nutritional foods and issued regularly disproportionate servings, so that prisoners held in long term solitary confinement go hungry and become unhealthy, since it is a concrete fact that nutritional foods maintain one's good health. CDCr continues to defy this documented fact under the "Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2010," from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

I can go on and on about the inadequate food prisoners are forced to eat – or starve; much of it provides no nutritional benefits. In part, our Core Demand No. 4 demanded an adequate, balanced, nutritional diet be provided and an end to the small servings.

Education vs. warehousing

We are still held inside these solitary confinement torture chambers (SCTC), where no meaningful educational programs and privileges have been implemented that could encourage our mental stability and physical development. When we talk about educational programs, we are talking about CDCr changing their practice of just warehousing prisoners, but instead giving access to modern world technologies that can be provided at a prisoner's expense or state expense.

We need real courage and a commitment to real education for prisoners. Allowing our mental energy to die or waste away in these man-made tombs does nothing for anyone. I'd prefer to be studying for a doctorate than to be just sitting here wasting away like this. And once we earn our degrees, we should be afforded the opportunity to serve humanity nationally and internationally.

Visiting

Privilege is simply allowing prisoners access to activities that enrich our lives. This can only be a benefit to everyone. Family visits and contact visits are privileges, even an hour visit out of 24 hours a day on two days, Saturday and Sunday, and in some prisons, just one day for an hour.

PBSP afforded an hour and a half and, after our peaceful protests, now three hours. But traveling to PBSP is like going to another state, so even three hours is insufficient considering the distance. We should be allowed five or six hours.

We have, for the last 50 years in California, been conditioned around violence, and violence has been a regular practice throughout our stay. Thanks to our Agreement to End Hostilities, a lot of this violence has been deterred to some extent.

But what will keep this violence at bay? Because it definitely won't sustain itself if prisoners' energy is not being challenged in the educational programs and privileges that would hold their attention and produce the development that will enrich their lives.

Our Core Demand No. 5 (Expand and provide constructive programming and privileges for indefinite SHU status inmates) demanded that in order to deal with the idle time and the physical and mental development and social development of each and every prisoner, there must be real rehabilitation.

None of our core demands have been met! We are at a stage in our protracted struggle where we have to ask ourselves a tough question: Where do we go from here?

[W]e have to start strategizing around what we have to do in respect to our peaceful protests in order to end the continued abuse of authority.

CDCr has turned up its attacks, making it worse for each and every prisoner and his or her family. New regulations on personal property and on "obscenity" – actually censorship, a direct attack on free speech – have been implemented, and the proposed regulations to use canine searches of visitors – a direct attack on our families – are not yet approved but are in effect "on a temporary basis."

These new regulations are nothing other than prison officials abusing their position of power in order to retaliate against all of us who participated in the hunger strikes and against all prisoners, activists and our families who supported us. The fact that CDCr can use the power that has been entrusted to them by the people to attack the people for their peaceful protests speaks volumes to how CDCr officials have no respect for the offices they hold.

We prisoners need to prepare for a massive peaceful protest and work stoppage if prison officials don't 1) Change the culture to which prisoners and their families are subjected: so much mental and physical torment; 2) End long term solitary confinement, as they promised; and 3) Implement our five core demands. If not, we have to think about our immediate future and long term future behind these walls. Too many humans are suffering who don't need to.

We also have to begin to educate prisoners on how to file writs and civil complaints in the state and federal courts in the interests of prisoners, ending the routine abuses that have been systemic throughout the state. The work stoppage, if necessary, should last anywhere from a month to years.

Our support committees need to release a report on the health consequences that many prisoners suffered during our last hunger strike, such as when we were temporarily taken to New Folsom. Many prisoners suffered immeasurable consequences in the name of our peaceful hunger strikes – the most recent having lasted from July 8, 2013, to Sept. 5, 2013 – that I personally recorded. We lost six lives, and we continue to lose lives.

One Love, One Struggle!

Send our brother some love and light: Mutope Duguma, s/n James Crawford, D-05996, D2-107, P.O. Box 7500, Crescent City CA 95532.

23rd of each month Statewide Coordinated Actions to End Solitary Confinement https://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com/take-action-2/

FLOOD THE SYSTEM

floodthesystem.net/

The Story So Far

Over the past year, hundreds of thousands of people have flowed into the streets to fight back.

Fast food workers in over a hundred cities went on strike, with thousands arrested demanding $15 an hour and a union. Young people in Ferguson, protesting the murder of Michael Brown by Darren Wilson, showed us the power of sustained action as they fought back against state violence for weeks, reinvigorating a national movement for Black liberation. Hundreds of thousands of climate activists marched at the People's Climate March in New York, and the next day Flood Wall Street shut down the heart of New York's financial district.

Across the country, and the world, powerful movements are using nonviolent direct action to to disrupt business as usual and demand lasting systemic change.

These moments show that broad mobilization and disruption are ways that we can transform our society. It is time we move beyond conventional strategies. Its time we connect across movements and #FloodTheSystem.

Rising Tide North America and its allies call on communities, networks, affinity groups and organizations across the continent to join together this Fall to rapidly escalate the pace and scale of the anti-capitalist climate justice movements.

We need to wash away the root causes of climate change -- capitalism, white supremacy, patriarchy and colonialism. These systems enable the domination of people and Earth. They place gains for the elite before the well being of our communities.

To build the scale of movements necessary to take on this challenge, we need everyone. Using sustained, coordinated direct action we can bring more people into a movement for radical social transformation than ever before.

The upcoming United Nations meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Paris (COP 21) at the end of the year provide us with an opportunity. Framed as climate negotiations they are really about capitalism and the corporate elites. We have an opportunity to focus the debate on capitalism itself as negotiators wedded to and benefiting from the status quo refuse to discuss the systems that drive the crisis. This is a natural moment to preemptively highlight community resistance and radical alternatives in advance of another colossal failure of international leadership. Through our combined action we can turn the failure of these critical talks into a moment in which the systemic nature of the crisis moves to the center and in which our movements begin to connect and collaborate.

In the past, the climate movement has repeatedly tried days of action and one-day marches. While these have built important relationships, they have not created the sustained movement swells we need. To lay the groundwork for exponential movement growth we are asking groups to convene Action Councils, like those forming in the Pacific Northwest, California, Montana, Northeast and elsewhere, with the intention of coming together to organize sustained actions beginning in late Summer, continuing through November and beyond.

With luck, waves of mobilizations breaking across the continent and world will build

off each other to create a flood of resistance to fossil fuel extraction, capitalism and colonialism.

Vision

#FloodTheSystem invites the Rising Tide network, the larger climate justice movements, and other non-climate focused groups to create a flood of massive economic and political disruption of the systems that allow the climate and economic crisis to continue to escalate. This is not a simple call to action or day of action, it's a long-term process. We want to organize a series of actions that would:

Build a more robust anti-capitalist movement that clearly defines climate change as a symptom of capitalism. Specifically, we hope to support and catalyze regional organizing networks and relationships to challenge extreme energy infrastructure and the systems of oppression that enable it

Build long term local, regional and continental networks that can continue to coordinate, build connections between movements, and escalate these fights in 2016 and beyond.

Begin to work closely with other movements through the analysis of where our struggles intersect and through a commitment to anti-oppressive organizing practices. Share, implement and gain experience in innovative models of horizontal movement structures and mass democracy in organizing that will serve radical forces for the long haul.

Create a flood of energy within regions that inspires others to join in with organic, spontaneous actions and organizing. Regional blocks of escalating action are already planned that will lead into, and play off, each other. More emerge everyday. Preemptively highlight community resistance and real alternatives to the fossil fuel economy ahead of the inevitable colossal failure by global elites at the United Nations climate negotiations in Paris.

100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of Turning the Tide

Over its 26+ year publishing history, ***TTT*** has been published in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we print four 8-page issues a year. Now, to restore bi-monthly publication, we have launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed **"100X100."**

We are looking for one hundred people who will donate $100 a year, or $10/mo, to make it possible for ***TTT*** to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing nearly 2000 copies of each issue into the prisons. You can donate online at http://gofundme.com/eugzgg.

Turning the Tide doesn't print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps; their contribution more often comes by writing articles, letters and poems or sending in drawings. Often, they pass the copy of ***TTT*** that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners.**Prisoners, if you can find donors or subscribers outside prison to subsidize your sub, that would help a lot**.

If you'd like to see ***Turning the Tide*** more frequently, if you want to contribute to breaking down the walls of isolation and separation imposed by the prison system, please contribute. If you can't manage $100 all at once, you could donate $10 a month. But any donation you make can help. Postage costs for a single issue of TTT are almost $1000 and climbing. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, Twitter followers, and email contacts. Everything helps.

If the campaign is successful, we will begin publishing every other month in 2015. Postage is our biggest expense. Nobody gets paid at ***TTT.*** But the Postal Service is not so generous. We have a handful of people who are sustainers, making a monthly donation, a larger number of people who subscribe once a year or so. Right now, we are at 10% of our goal. LA supporters could set up house meetings, where the editor will pitch to your friends for support. The future of ***Turning the Tide*** is in your hands. Now, while you're thinking about it, go to:

http://gofundme.com/eugzgg

and donate. Then share it with your contacts. With your help, ***Turning the Tide*** can step up to the "urgency of now" -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, colonialism, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible.

If you think ***TTT*** is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to **Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.**

FREE PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONER OSCAR LOPEZ RIVERA

Oscar López Rivera, 72, is a Puerto Rican *independentista* political prisoner. Sparked by broad support from many sectors of Puerto Rican society and in the Puerto Rican diaspora in the United States, the campaign to release López Rivera, a name unfamiliar to some, has been picking up steam. May 29 marked 34 years since his arrest on charges of the thought crime of "seditious conspiracy," plotting to overthrow the US government in Puerto Rico by force of arms. This is the same charge that was levied against Don Pedro Albizu Campos, Puerto Rican Nationalist leader in the 1950s.

Alejandro Molina is with the May 30 Coalition to Free Oscar López. "He was a decorated Vietnam veteran who came back to serve his people. He's also a Puerto Rican Revolutionary." Charges against him total 70 years in prison. On May 30th, thousands marched demanding his excarceration, thronging in the streets from Harlem through El Barrio, so-called "Spanish Harlem" with many more in the Puerto Rican community waving support from the sidelines. Congressmember Nydia Velázquez joined with other López supporters for the march and rally. Addressing Barack Obama she said, "Mr. President, do the right thing. Free Oscar López!" Many other figures in the Puerto Rican movement and community also addressed the marchers, including his daughter Clarissa and his brother, Jose López of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center and Pedro Albizu Campos High School in Chicago. The younger López said that the continued survival and consciousness of Puerto Rican youth and the Puerto Rican community in Chicago in the face of gentrification was a testament to the living legacy of Oscar López.

If there is no pardon or clemency by the President, López will get out of prison when he is 82 years old. You can join a letter writing campaign asking President Obama for clemency by going to BoricuaHumanRights.org.

His case was also taken up recently to thousands at the Left Forum in NY. The Pacifica Foundation Radio national board also adopted a resolution calling for his release and coverage of the issue on Pacifica stations and the network's affiliates, in a motion advanced by a Pacifica affiliate in Vieques, Puerto Rico.

López Rivera and several codefendants adopted a stance of "prisoners of war" when captured and tried, refusing to recognize US jurisdiction because of the colonial relationship of Puerto Rico, which was taken over by the US in the so-called Spanish American War in 1898. The others have all subsequently been released, either by presidential clemency by Bill Clinton or eventual parole after lengthy sentences.

Land Seizures Speeding Up, Leaving Africans Homeless and Landless

By Jeffrey Moyo
http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/04/land-seizures-speeding-up-leaving-africans-homeless-and-landless/

HARARE, Apr 8 2015 (IPS) - There's a new scramble for Africa, with ordinary people facing displacement by the affluent and powerful as huge tracts of land are grabbed by a minority, rights activists here say.

"Our forefathers cried foul when their land was grabbed by colonialists more than a century ago, but today history repeats itself, with our own political leaders and wealthy countrymen looting land," Claris Madhuku, director of the Platform for Youth Development (PYD), a democracy lobby group in Zimbabwe, told IPS.

Civil society activist Owen Dliwayo, who is program officer for the Youth Dialogue Action Network, said multinational companies were to blame in most African countries for land seizures. "I can give you an example of the Chisumbanje ethanol fuel project here in Chipinge. The project resulted in thousands of villagers being displaced to pave way for a sugar plantation so that space could be created for the ethanol-producing project," Dliwayo told IPS. The 40,000 hectare plantation displaced more than 1,754 households.

Fifteen years ago, Zimbabwe embarked on a controversial land reform to address colonial land-ownership imbalances, but activists have dismissed the move as disastrous for this Southern African nation. "To say African nations like Zimbabwe addressed the land problem is untrue because land which African governments like Zimbabwe grabbed from white farmers was parceled out to political elites at the expense of peasants here," Terry Mutsvanga, an award-winning Zimbabwean rights activist, told IPS. "Land grabs in Africa have helped perpetuate economic inequalities similar to the colonial era," he added.

In 2010, ZimOnline, a Zimbabwean news service, reported that 2,200 well-connected black Zimbabwean elites controlled nearly 40% of the 14 million hectares seized from white farmers, with each farm ranging in size from 250 to 4,000 hectares. President Mugabe and his family [were] said to own 14 farms spanning at least 16,000 hectares.

According to a 2011 presentation by Uganda's Joshua Zake, 'Land Grabbing; silent pain for smallholder farmers in Uganda', a few wealthy or powerful individuals [prevail] against many vulnerable individuals or communities. Zake is Senior Program Officer for Environment and Natural Resources and Coordinator of the Uganda Forestry Working Group at Environmental Alert. According to Zake, land grabbing in Africa, particularly in Uganda, is promoted by the suspected presence of oil and other mineral resources beneath the land, such as in Uganda's Amuru and Bulisa districts.

But land grabs in Africa may also be rampant in towns and cities, according to private land developers here. "There's high demand of land for homes in towns and cities across Africa owing to the sharp rural-to-urban migration," Etuna Nujoma, a private land developer based in Windhoek, the Namibian capital, told IPS. "The wealthy and the powerful as well as corrupt politicians are taking advantage of the land demand and parceling out urban land among themselves for resale at exorbitant prices at the expense of the poor."

Last year, irked by corrupt local authorities appearing to be dishing out land among themselves for resale, a group of informal settlement dwellers outside Namibia's coastal holiday town of Swakopmund occupied municipal land with the intention of settling there.

Meanwhile, in Mozambique, the poor are losing out to foreign investors on land rights there despite the state being the sole owner of land. Under the country's constitution, there is no private land ownership – land and its associated resources are the property of the state – although the country's Land Law grants private persons the right to use and benefit from the land whether or not they have a formal title. However, loopholes have emerged in the law.

A survey last year by Mozambique's National Farmers' Union showed that there was a colonial-era style land grab there, with politically-connected companies in the former Portuguese colony seizing hundreds of thousands of hectares of farmland from peasants. According to GRAIN, a non-profit organization supporting small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems, peasants in northern Mozambique have difficulties keeping their lands as foreign companies set up large-scale agribusinesses there.

"The Mozambican government is known for siding with foreign investors who now occupy huge tracts of land for their own use as local peasants lose out on land, which is their birth right," Kingston Nyakurukwa, a Zimbabwean independent economist, told IPS.

With foreign investors acquiring huge tracts of land ahead of locals in Africa, ActionAid Tanzania earlier this year said that through the European Union, United States and several European countries, the European Union's New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition plans to invest 7.57 billion euros in agricultural development and food security across Africa. However, said Nyakurukwa, these will be business ventures that will strip Africans of their hard-earned money as they buy agricultural produce.

Similarly, in Nigeria, Mozambique and Tanzania, smallholder farmers are being moved off their land, paving the way for sugarcane, rice and other export crop-growing projects backed by New Alliance money, according to ActionAid Tanzania's findings. "Money from investors seem to be elbowing us out of our native lands here in Tanzania. No one has been offered the choice of whether to be resettled or not, as we are being forcibly offered money or land for resettlement," Moses Malunguja, a disgruntled peasant from Tanzania, told IPS.

Save the date:
November 6-9, 2015

Annual TORCH Anti-fa Network gathering in Philadelphia PA Hosted by Philly Antifa.

More details and registration in the next issue of TTT.

On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide & ARA-LA.

You can find archives of ***Turning the Tide*** at **www.antiracist.org** that go back more than seven years, plus back issues of the ***Black Rider African Intercommunal News Service***.
In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as facebook.com/tideturning, and facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity. You can follow @ara_losangeles on Twitter, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at ara-la.tumblr.com.

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THOUGHTS ON OUR AGREEMENT TO END HOSTILITIES (AEH)

By Kijani Tashiri Askari and Akili Castlin

The Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary defines the word "hostility" as being :
1.) A hostile state, condition , or attitude; enmity; antagonism; unfriendliness
2.) A hostile act
3.) Opposition or resistance to an idea, plan project, etc.
4.) a) acts of warfare
b) war

So our initial question to the people is: "What does hostility mean to you?" During the formulation phase of constructing our position on this issue, a wise man was asked his thoughts on our "Agreement to end Hostilities" (AEH) and he stated:

"The inclusion of the Agreement to end race-based hostilities to our struggle against California's solitary confinement policies, represents a qualitative leap of the insight of all prison nationalities, and unites us beyond the fight to free ourselves from CDCR's torture units. Its promise may foreshadow the triumph of prisoners' quests for full human recognition."

History has always proven to be a viable guide, with making qualitative assessments in relation to where we have been, and with what lies ahead in the course of our struggle. Therefore, it's only appropriate that we highlight the essence of our suffering with examples from our history in CDCR's solitary confinement units.

In the 1960s, we prisoners were suffocating under the inhumane and deplorable conditions in Soledad's O-Wing, where prisoners were routinely placed in strip/quiet cells amidst the foul stench of urine and human feces. In most instances, human waste lay bare on the floor for all to see. And you could forget about the prison guards giving us anything to clean up the human waste, especially when you factor in how the prison guards wouldn't give us toilet paper to wipe ourselves or flush our floor-based toilets on a regular basis, which could only be done by them. I mean, the prison guards wouldn't even give us drinking water!!

WE CAN'T BREATHE!!!

In the 1970s, we prisoners were suffocating under the inhumane conditions of being deprived of outdoor exercise and access to natural sunlight. Our means of exercise consisted of being let out of our cells to occupy a space in front of it that was no bigger than a public sidewalk. In Spain v. Procunier, the court ruled these conditions to be unconstitutional and set forth the mandate of prisoners in solitary confinement receiving at least 10 hours of outdoor exercise a week. But 36 years later, in 2015, Warden Holland of CCI Tehachapi has admitted that this prison is ill-equipped to meet the mandate of 10 hours of outdoor recreation. In other words "caged monkeys" in a zoo receive more outdoor exercise and natural sunlight than us!!

WE CAN'T BREATHE!!!

In the 1980s, we prisoners were suffocating under the deplorable and outright inhumane conditions at Old Folsom and San Quentin State Prisons. These conditions consisted of extreme cold weather during winter months due to prison guards using their guns to shoot out the windows in the housing units. Rat feces circulated throughout the plumbing system, meaning that the designated shower areas for prisoners were inclusive of this kind of filth!! In Toussaint v. McCarthy, federal court ruled these conditions unconstitutional, but also issued a "permanent injunction," that mandated these conditions be immediately changed! However, instead of any changes coming about, CDCR surreptitiously transferred prisoners out of Old Folsom and San Quentin en masse to Tehachapi, DUI-Tracy, Soledad State Prison, etc… Thus, nullifying the injunction.

WE CAN'T BREATHE!!!

In the 1990s we witnessed the expansion of solitary confinement units (e.g., "Supermax control units"), wherein CDCR's objectives became ever more apparent in the form of population control. On the one hand, a culture of police beatings was exposed to the public in Madrid v. Gomez, where prisoner Vaughn Dortch was forced into a tub of boiling hot water and had his skin ripped off!! Prisoner Greg Dickerson was shot in the chest and stomach point blank in his cell with a 38 millimeter gas gun via the false assertion of being non-cooperative with prison guards.

On the other hand, prisoners were forced to become informants for the state, in order to be released from solitary confinement via "the CDCR Inquisition" program. This was exposed as an "underground policy" in Castillo v. Alameida, because CDCR never promulgated it through the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The Castillo case also brought about the 6-year inactive gang status reviews, which meant prisoners were led to believe we could be released from solitary confinement after 6 years. These reviews were a complete sham! It has now been revealed that Castillo is a pig collaborator by becoming an informant for CDCR in the current class-action lawsuit of Ashker v. Brown, et. al., against the current conditions of solitary confinement.

WE CAN'T BREATHE!!!

Through this spiral of development the AEH became manifest in October of 2012. So in reflecting upon our collective struggle, in being unable to breathe for over a half-century of pure torture. it's hard not to think of Eric Garner, right before his demise, when he uttered the words: "I CAN'T BREATHE!!!"

This reality explains why we ended our hostilities, as it amounts to freedom or death!! It's every prisoner's aspiration to be liberated from prison. Our AEH puts us in a viable position for this to happen, especially when we consider how CDCR has routinely denied us parole, for simply being interned to indefinite solitary confinement status as alleged gang members, without a single act of violence to support their position. This speaks to the importance and the manner in which every prisoner has honored and adhered to our AEH. This is commendable on all fronts!! Our exemplary conduct has made CDCR completely powerless over us, as we have successfully taken away the fodder that used to fuel their political rhetoric in labeling us the "worst of the worst." Our unity threatens the political, social, and economic stability of CDCR, which is why their Counter Intelligence Unit (IGI) is issuing all of these bogus CDC-115 rule violation reports for "promoting gang activity."

Our fortitude and resolve of continued unity ensures that our demand in wanting to be liberated from prison will no longer fall on deaf ears!! We now have the power to change the course of history with CDCR's routine parole board denials, just as we have done in building a movement around abolishing all solitary confinement units. We must begin a similar process in mobilizing our families on this very issue. But until then, "WE CAN'T BREATHE" must become our mantra going forward, as we prisoners refuse to ease up on the powers that be, until every prisoner is able to breathe by being liberated from these prisons!!

– **WE CAN'T BREATHE!!!**

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ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!!!

Boots on the Ground... A Brief Communique on the Charleston Church Massacre

R.I.P. to our people who were brutally assassinated in cold blood by the racist white terrorist Dylann Roof on June 17, 2015.

Revolution is a glorious term, it's a term to be proud of, and we should know that we are morally right to fight.. and that the oppressor has no rights which the oppressed are bound to respect! The Black Riders Carolina Chapter is now officially open on the streets, (6/21/15). We must defend ourselves by any means necessary... AN EYE FOR AN EYE, A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH, AND A HEAD FOR A HEAD!!
by General T.A.C.O.
Black Power! All Power to the People!
"The primacy of politics remains, but we must now prepare ourselves for armed confrontation. By no stretch of the imagination can we hope to overthrow so determined an enemy without force."--George Jackson.
WE WILL WIN!

Left, Tywanza Sanders, one of nine assassinated in Charleston, SC.

A New Generation Black Panther Talks About Baltimore and Black America

by Bill Kilby, VICE Magazine May, 2015

General T.A.C.O. a.k.a. Wolverine Shakur is the leader of the Black Riders Liberation Party, a group in Los Angeles also known as the "New Generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense." As that name implies, they're not exactly shy about their activism: In March, they traveled to Texas and marched with the Huey P. Newton Gun Club through South by Southwest in Austin, carrying guns to the state capitol to "raise the cry for armed self-defense" for the black community.

The link between black activism and gun control goes back a long way. The "open carry" of firearms was banned in California by the Mulford Act in 1967 in response to the armed police patrols of the original Black Panthers; their ideological successors in the Black Riders now organize "Watch-A-Pig" patrols in South LA, Oakland, and elsewhere to defend against what they see as "police terrorism." While they can't lawfully carry loaded guns, they say they use video cameras and "legal weapons" to confront police arresting black suspects. But where they differ from the Copwatch approach is that their eventual goal is total revolution.

We spoke with General T.A.C.O. (which stands for "Taking All Capitalists Out") about Baltimore, gang truces, and the history of Black America. His comments reveal an alternative narrative of contemporary race relations that's instructive for understanding how some black Americans view the current wave of attention to police brutality as the beginning of a renewed Black Power movement. Here's what he had to say:

VICE: In the past year, with a number of high-profile incidents involving police killings of black suspects, have you seen more interest in the message of the Black Riders?
General T.A.C.O.: Yes, we've been growing pretty rapidly in the last year and a half. We're also extremely strong in the prison-industrial complex—we have a nationwide prison chapter. By the pigs exposing their hand, they're revealing to the public the things that have been going on in the black community since we were dragged here on slave ships from Africa. They're using the same repressive, violent measures to colonize us into the position that we're in right now. The police came from the paddy rollers, patrollers, who chased down runaway slaves and dragged them back to the plantation.

V: In that case, do you think that any type of police reform efforts are going to make life easier for the black community, or do you think it's going to take a more systemic solution?
T: We see the whole issue of police terrorism as being tied to the issue of white supremacy and capitalism and US imperialism on the planet. We see our struggle and our freedom tied to an international struggle against a worldwide capitalist class, which has been oppressing people around the world since its existence. When we talk about police terrorism, it's in conjunction with property relations, in conjunction with means of production and distribution of wealth. We deal with economic, social, and political subjugation and repression. The police act to protect the property of the capitalist class. As long as those types of property relations exist, we're gonna have a problem with this government; we're gonna have problems with capitalism, white supremacy, and US imperialism. We see a need to educate our people for armed self-defense and community service, then after that we want to move them to a community where we're in control of the police and where we can disarm the pigs. But even that alone would never work—we need to have total revolution to deal with police terrorism, because as long as the state is in the pocket of the ruling class, we're always going to have this racial and class conflict.

V: Since the announcement of criminal charges against officers who arrested Freddie Gray, tensions on the ground in Baltimore have appeared to relax. What do you think is the next step for black organizers seeking to prevent further police abuses?
T: What they can learn from the Freddie Gray situation is that the need to resist is necessary. No longer can we sit idly by and watch the pigs terrorize our communities. You have to understand that even though this concession was given to the masses, it was designed to appease them, to offset the real revolutionary rage that's inside of them from being oppressed by a racist US government. It's like they did with those small crumbs of reform in the 60s like affirmative action; they created a black neocolonial class to provide a buffer guard for the ruling class. They need these house negroes to convince us that the capitalist, white-supremacist system works, despite the fact [that] it doesn't. We've already proven that by numerous times throughout our history where the police have been indicted for a crime, and yet still, because of the racial dynamics of the jury pool, which is usually white, we don't have anybody there to represent the interests of our people. Our peer group are those around us in a geographic location, who talk like us, look like us. As long as the jury pool is composed of people who are alien to our culture, to our language, to our ways as a people, then they're going to see things through a white, racist, capitalist viewpoint, and end up letting the pigs off.

V: Who are some members of this black neocolonial class, in your view?
T: Obama! He's the ultimate neocolonial puppet. We like to say, look at race car drivers, like Mario Andretti, one of the fastest race car drivers in the world. If you put that man inside a Pinto, a raggedy Pinto that only goes 50 miles an hour, you'll understand that no matter his skill, no matter his intention or goodwill, he cannot make that Pinto go faster than it was designed to go! The racist US government and its system were never designed for our people; it was designed to enslave, massacre, and genocide our people out of this country. We look at Obama as pushing the same kind of line. He's the grand house negro.

V: Do you think that charges would have been brought against those officers had there not been demonstrations and rioting in Baltimore?
T: We don't call it rioting ourselves. We think things that the white supremacists did to gain control of this country, like the Boston Tea Party, were riots! This was a rebellion, a righteous response to brutal terrorism. It wasn't the protesting that did it—it was the rebellion that forced the enemy's hand to placate our people and try and calm us down so they can make business as usual. So no, the charges would have never been raised on these dumb pigs unless the rebellion took place. Now we have to keep rebelling as a people for justice and freedom.

V: So you're not very confident that the charges will stick?
T: I think that people should push and keep up the resistance by any means necessary. We can't depend on pigs to investigate the pigs. We have to understand the criminal justice system is a criminal "criminal justice system" that isn't designed for our people, but to protect the property of the racist, capitalist ruling class. We cannot depend on these same mechanisms formed by the enemy to seek justice or our freedom.

V: A memo was issued by the Baltimore Police Department which alleged that members of the Crips, Bloods, and the Black Guerilla Family were aligning to "take out" police officers. Do you think the police mischaracterized a truce as something violent?
T: This was a deceptive ploy to create mass confusion within our community. They saw that not only were the Bloods and Crips organizing together, members of other gangs such as the Vice Lords and the P. Stones were uniting and seeing the real enemy after the Freddie Gray situation. But also, it's directly tied to history—we have to understand that even during the period of plantation chattel slavery, they did not like two, three, five black people congregating together, because they felt we were conspiring to overthrow the slave masters. It's the same thing today. They don't want us to work together and organize to uplift our community, because we're opposed to their dominance.

You have to understand that in the 80s, the government used the tactics of bringing in crack cocaine and military weaponry to flood the black community. They decided to neutralize the black liberation movement in America and the righteous liberation struggle of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, to wipe out two birds with one white rock. They created the Contras, a group of counter-revolutionaries who pushed cocaine, to overthrow the Sandinistas, while using our own people, Bloods, Crips, and "Freeway" Rick Ross, to bring in crack and military weaponry to throw off the whole black liberation movement. They created the rise of the so-called "gang epidemic," the "crack epidemic," the "guns and violence epidemic"—they created these problems by smuggling these things into our community.

The whole idea of Crips came from the Black Panther Party. Crips stood for "Class Revolution in Progress," later on Bloods came and created "Black Liberation of Our Descent." Both Bloods and Crips came from the black liberation movement, so the government used our revolutionary righteous thrust and need for freedom and justice, and turned it against us, creating the pop-cultural, subcultural mentality of the "thug." But they are the greatest thugs, the greatest terrorists, the racist US government.

There are Bloods and Crips in peace talks all over this country right now, not only in Baltimore. Not only are Bloods and Crips uniting, Christians and Muslims are uniting. All of our black people that are being oppressed and brutalized by a racist government are in peace talks, love talks, and knowledge-of-self talks, and once this public gets talking, it ain't over. There isn't too much time left until we start walking the walk, and the Black Riders intend to lead them to revolution.

V: What do you think of the Black Lives Matter movement?
T: The process of awakening, of revolution, is developmental. The initial phase starts when people just talk or scream or yell at the pigs, but once the pigs show their true intentions, and show that they're morally bankrupt, then the Black Lives Matter movement will gain knowledge of the enemy's true nature, and will eventually see the need to push for self-defense and revolution.

V: Do you see revolution as inevitable as long as black communities keep resisting, or do you think something could stop it?
T: The only thing that will stop our people from achieving true freedom, justice, and equality is disunity within ourselves. Our goal is to educate and liberate not only black people, but to be the vanguard of the global revolution to wipe out any form of racism or imperialism on the planet. We cannot be free as long as even one slave is oppressed.

V: What can sympathetic white people, and people of other races, do to assist the black community in defending against police brutality?
T: The main thing sympathetic whites can do is ride on the pigs and white supremacy. It's important that black people are allowed to define themselves and their struggle, for outsiders not to come in and co-opt or water down our righteous revolutionary rage. The main way is to ride on the pigs, to go against the pigs. You've gotta study the history of John Brown, 'cause if you're not John Brown, you might as well get out of town.

Bill Kilby is a freelance writer based in Los Angeles.

Contact Info for the Black Riders

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Black-Riders-Liberation-Party.

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- ★ Oct. 18, 10a, White People 4 Black Lives @ CicLAvia, 7th & Figueroa LA
- ★ Oct-Dec. Balloting 4 KPFK LSB - vote 4 Grassroots candidates, gcrc-socal.org
- ★ Oct-Dec. 100X100 Fundraising Campaign for TTT gofundme.com/eugzgg
- ★ Nov. 6-8 TORCH Anti-fa Network gathering, Philly PA (see p. 3)
- ★ Nov. 7-8, *Catch The Tiger* plar re: Marcus Garvey, 665 Heliotrope Dr. LA
- ★ Nov. 25, Boycott Black Friday - Buy Nothing Day

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- MUMIA ABU JAMAL

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TURNING THE TIDE

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Lynne Stewart,
People's Lawyer & ex-Political Prisoner of the USA PATRIOT Act

Nelson Denis,
Lawyer & author of "War Against All Puerto Ricans"

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BLACK LIVES MATTER!

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★ Black Riders on Panther Power Radio
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★ and Much More!

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Counter Columbus, Confront Colonialism, Capitalism & Climate Crisis

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the end of the US Civil War and the triumph of incipient industrial capitalism over earlier, deeply-rooted mercantile and slave-based and land-based forms of capitalism. It set the stage for what is coming to be known as the "Anthropocene." This is a period of bio-geological development in which human activity is shaping the atmospheric, oceanic and planetary ecological systems in ways that the pre-existing natural systems can no longer contain or accommodate. The consequences of the ensuing 15 decades of intensive exploitation of carbon-based energy resources for warfare, agribusiness, industrial production, and transportation are becoming increasingly undeniable.

We are facing a climatological catastrophe, global mass extinctions, and a possibly irreversible environmental transformation that will mark the end of the 10,000 year period, the Holocene, during which human civilization, based on agriculture, has developed. Global warming, ocean acidification, melting of polar ice, sea level rise, extreme weather events including super-storms, floods and droughts, may soon make the planet unrecognizable, and possibly uninhabitable for humans and thousands of other species whose physical evolution and life cycles cannot keep pace with these transformations.

It behooves us, if we have any hope of staving off such calamities, or of surviving them if and as they occur, to analyze the roots of the social, political and economic behaviors and practices that have brought them about. We must also understand and undo the reasons for the failures of previous efforts to transform human society.

To do so, we must look further back in time, first to the birth of capitalism as a particular form of class society and of exploitation of nature and of humanity within nature, further into the beginnings of history and class society, and then into the entirety of the geological and biological development of earth including the emergence of our species. Doing that in a page or so of this newspaper, 2000 words, is an ambitious goal, so bear with me if what follows is particularly dense. It is also, though I begin by quoting Marx, not going to be the typical "Marxist" presentation of what purports to be class analysis or dialectical and historical materialism, because that has proven insufficient.

There were some incipient forms of capital developing in Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania and the western hemisphere, based on trade, farming, handicrafts and early forms of money and banking in pre-existing patriarchal, slave-based and feudal societies. But "capital" is not the same as "capitalism." As Marx has said, "The discovery of gold and silver in America, the extirpation, enslavement and entombment in mines of the aboriginal population, the beginning of the conquest and looting of the East Indies, turning Africa into a warren for the commercial hunting of black-skins, signaled the rosy dawn of the era of capitalist production. These ... proceedings are the chief momenta of primary accumulation. On their heels treads the commercial war of the European nations, with the globe for a theatre...the revolt of the Netherlands from Spain, ...England's Anti-Jacobin War, ...the opium wars against China, etc."

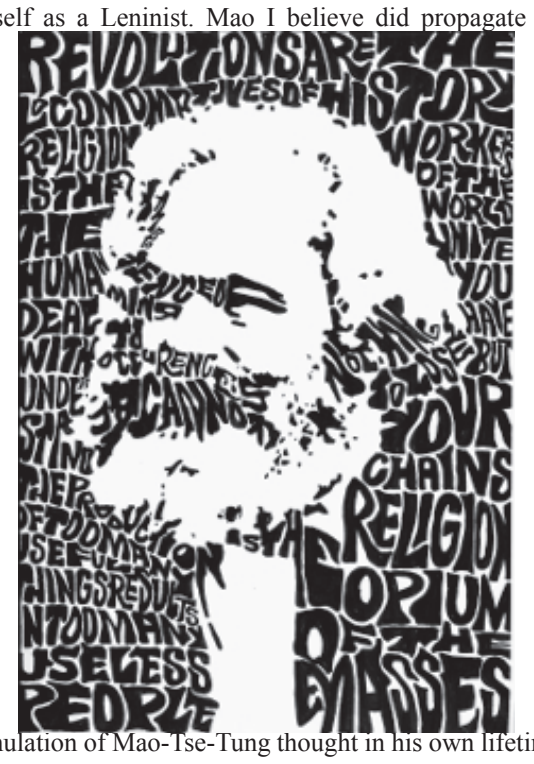
But there's an odd inversion in Marx's brief recounting of the birth of capitalism. The paragraph he put before the one just cited should've followed it. He says, "The money capital formed by means of usury and commerce was prevented from turning into industrial capital, in the country by the feudal constitution, in the towns by the guilds. These fetters vanished with the dissolution of feudal society, with the expropriation and eviction of the country population. The new manufactures were established at sea-ports, or at inland points beyond the control of the old municipalities and their guilds." Putting that first is a critical transposition of developments, chronologically and logically, that has plagued subsequent "vulgar" Marxists, who persist in identifying capitalism with what developed in Europe proper and with the class conflict between the new ruling bourgeoisie and the European proletarians.

In fact, as Marx stated, capitalism was born ***in the colonies*** -- with the conquest and privatization of land in the Americas and the enslavement of indigenous and African people as labor. It is only ***on that base of "primary accumulation"*** -- which is still proceeding -- that the ***later*** enclosure of the commons in Europe, the eviction of the peasantry, and the formation of the proletariat, first in Europe and then globally, could occur. Marx recognized that private ownership of land (and therefore money rent) was an independent form of capital, and an independent basis for capitalist relations among people and between people and nature, but because the bulk of his work focused on abstracting from industrial and financial capital in order to understand its laws of development, this insight has in large measure been lost. In recent years, *Monthly Review* and related Marxian scholars have done tremendous work recuperating the ecological kernel in Marx's thinking and analysis, but they have not yet overcome this fundamental weakness. Private ownership of land affects class status.

US settlers carrying out a genocidal theft of Native land .

Beyond Historical Materialism

One reason for this oversight has been the historic ossification of Marx's analysis and insights into what has been called "dialectical and historical materialism," often also denominated as "Marxism-Leninism" or Marxism-Leninism-Mao-Tse-Tung Thought." Marx, of course, never called himself a Marxist, nor did Lenin characterize himself as a Leninist. Mao I believe did propagate the formulation of Mao-Tse-Tung thought in his own lifetime, as the heir to and further developer of the philosophy and ideology of his revolutionary forbears, in a later historical period and a non-European context. But what is key, if we are to move beyond stale formulas and failed attempts, is to recognize the partial nature of such thinking. The "history" in "historical materialism" relates to the concept that "all history is the history of class struggle." We require a much more sweeping and inclusive grasp of human and planetary history, and of physical and social evolution.



Humanity existed for at least a quarter-million years, possibly longer, before the advent of "history" and class society. The basis of class society, like the basis of capitalism, was a transformation in the relationship of people to the land. Settled agriculture, conscious cultivation of plants and domestication of animals, developed in several different parts of the world independently long after the spread of humanity across the planet as hunter-gatherers (a title that simultaneously illuminates and obscures a gendered biological division of labor that precedes patriarchy). This was also long before the advent of capitalism.

And long prior to the rise of humanity as a dominating presence on the planet, other forms of life were instrumental in a kind of co-evolutionary process along with the physical processes of geology, solar radiation and other forces, in creating the atmosphere and the biosphere. The question and challenge is whether we can reintegrate ourselves as humans into what Marx termed the "metabolism" of the ecosphere. Can human activity and social organization be organized so that it is consistent with and embedded in the reciprocal, symbiotic processes of regional and planetary eco-systems? Or is any "production," whether based on agriculture, industry, carbon-based energy, inherently extractivist and destructive?

Clearly, we must supercede capitalism, a cancerous, parasitical system based on inherently unsustainable "growth." But to do so, especially given the centrality of the US to the global imperialist order, we must directly confront colonialism and particularly settler colonialism. The entire social order, economy and federal state apparatus of the US, including the new transnational manifestations of concentrated political and economic power such as the TPP, are based on settler colonialism -- on stolen land and the control and exploitation of colonized people. Huey P. Newton had some significant insights in putting forward the theory of revolutionary inter-communalism as his thinking and practice developed, but he made the error of misunderstanding and abandoning the concept of decolonization, and untethering Black liberation not only from nationalism and nationhood, but from a relationship to the land. Newton rightly rejected the neo-colonial bourgeois nationalism and the process of "decolonization" authorized by the European colonial powers, which transformed "former" colonies into nominally independent but "under-developed" states modeled on the European nation-state.

But true decolonization is something different -- it means reversing colonialism -- the theft and privatization of land, the domination, exploitation and often extermination of the people and cultures that developed on that land. Its culmination clearly cannot be a nation state, because, despite Stalin's various pseudo-definitions, the "nation-state" has always been, in fact, an ***empire*** state, based on the subordination of multiple cultures, languages, and ways of life by a single dominant class claiming to speak for the "nation" and the "national interest." If this is true in Europe, where dozens of principalities and ethnicities and languages were amalgamated to form "Spain" or "the United Kingdom," or "Italy", "Germany" or "Russia" -- and where the maps must continually be redrawn as nation-states dissolve and reform, or in Africa, where maps were drawn arbitrarily to divide and conquer people in the interests of European colonizers, how much more must it be the case in the US, a continental empire based on land stolen from 100 or more nations, and the conquest, importation and amalgamation of innumerable peoples.

It's only by fundamentally transforming the relationship of people to the land (and to "nature" more broadly) while simultaneously transforming the relationship of people to each other, that we can heal the breach between humanity and nature, and hopefully heal the wounded eco-systems of this planet. This requires not only a political revolution, or an economic one, but a civilizational and cultural revolution. We must regain the wisdom of indigenous peoples who have been resisting colonialism for half a millenium, relearn how to live in harmony with the water cycle and other natural processes, transform our methods of raising food, using renewable and non-toxic forms of energy, reforest massive areas of the planet that are suffering from deforestation and desertification. That is only possible by freeing colonized lands and peoples and by expropriating the expropriators, the capitalist-colonialist class who can only exist by leeching off that land and human creativity.

Feedback and responses welcome to:
antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: 'NO FASCIST USA'

No Fascist USA is an upcoming no-budget documentary about the Antifascist movement in the US, made by a longtime militant Antifa with the assistance of members (current and former) of the TORCH Antifa Network, the Anti-Racist Action Network, Red and Anarchist Skinheads and several independent Antifa groups.

In the fashion of Chasseur De Skins (France), 161>88 (UK), and Antifascist Attitude (Russia), this film will tell the history of our movement through a mixture of found footage and interviews with longtime Antifa from all around the U.S. It will seek to dispel several myths about Antifascism as well as address relevant criticisms, and ultimately create more and better prepared Antifascists.

Just some of the topics shown and discussed in the film include:
The John Brown Anti-Klan Committee
The founding of Skinheads against Racial Prejudice, Anti-Racist Action and Red and Anarchist Skinheads and the war against Nazis in Punk and Hardcore music.
The Coalition for Human Dignity
The rise and fall of the National Alliance and Creativity Movement
The Murders of Anti-Racist Skinheads Dan and Spit in Las Vegas in 1999 and the trials of John Butler and Ross Hack.
The 2002 "Battle of York"
The 2005 Toledo, OH Riots against the National Socialist Movement
The events surrounding the Jena 6.
The 2011 attack on the National Socialist Movement national conference in Pemberton, NJ
The 2012 attack on the White Nationalist Economic Summit in Tinley Park, IL and the resulting repression and imprisonments.
Due to time and money constraints, traveling to every city we would like to interview Antifa just isn't feasible. Therefore, we are asking for your help.

If you have special knowledge of these events or others like them, we want to hear from you. Record a short video with yourself telling us what you want us to know. If you are knowledgeable about relevant historical or current topics, make a recording.

As we said before, the interviews are only half the film. We need footage. Protests, conferences (political or press), fights, benefit shows, news clips; anything that could be used to make the movie a more complete history. If the clip is not self-evident, please include a

short anecdote, for example, "The KKK came to my town in 1999 and Antifascists mobilized against them here is an old local news broadcast about it."

Please DO NOT send footage of anything illegal (unless the statute of limitations has long expired), nor confessions to crimes. If you are interested in being interviewed we would also like to hear from you. However, because of previously mentioned constraints no one is guaranteed an interview and no one who cannot be independently confirmed and vouched will be included.

Finally, if you are a member of an Anti-Fascist musical project of any genre and would like your music included in the film, we are also accepting song submissions. All submissions should please include lyrics.

There has never been a film about the U.S. Antifascist Movement. The closest one, Invisible Revolution, included no history and spent half the film giving a platform to Klansmen. It is also 15 years old. This project is long over-due and we hope that Antifascists all over the country will help make it a reality.

We can be contacted at eternalwaronthehitleryouth@gmail.com.

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee IWOC Steering Committee Overview

The Steering Committee of the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee is a transitional body, mandated to assist the creation of an Industrial Union in prisons run by the people in prison themselves. It is mandated that at least 2 of the 7 positions on the Steering Committee are formerly or currently incarcerated individuals.

Unlike many IWW Committees, the IWOC Steering Committee is divided into 7 roles of which people will run for one, with 4 additional roles to be taken on by Steering Committee members once elected: 2 Steering Committee Co-Chairs, 1 Treasurer, and 1 Secondary Check Signer. There are also additional auxiliary committees who are connected to the Committee via the Co-Chairs.

IWOC Steering Committee Roles and Expectations

All Steering Committee Members are expected to:
Attend every other week 1 hour conference calls
Stay up to date on Steering Committee business and votes
Implement work in their task area as mandated by the annual IWOC Mini-Conference or amended by the IWOC Steering Committee
Ensure all goals are specific and have timelines attached
Work with other members of IWOC to create active members or a committee in their role area, involving members on the inside and outside
Take on necessary IWOC work beyond their designated task area

Inreach and Inside Support Responsible (2)
Be in regular contact with IWW inside organizers, groups, and branches
Support development of increasing levels of inside organization including connecting members of the Committee on Industrial Union Formation
Send out IWOC Alerts
Ensure maintenance and accuracy of IWOC database

Outreach and Local Support Responsible (2)
Support and mentor IWOC Local Organizing Groups and IUB 613 Outside Liaisons in growing their groups and electing point people for nationally mandated task areas: membership, fundraising, and newsletter (review these areas before or at Conference!)
Plan, recruit, and ensure the facilitation of quarterly Local Organizing Conference Calls
Expand IWOC infrastructure throughout the IWW including subscriptions to IWOC Alerts and in partnership with the Fundraising officer
Make a list of potential IWOC allies; ensure they receive Annual Greetings and Newsletter; respond to inquiries or potential alliances with said groups

Fundraising Responsible (1)
Ensure the creation and implementation of an annual Fundraising Plan
Create fundraising materials and ensure inclusion of fundraising into all aspects of work
Setup necessary online and other infrastructure to facilitate donations

Literature/Media Responsible (1)
Ensure regular posts to facebook, twitter, and other social media
Maintain website, including easy IWOC Alert sign-up
Ensure the creation of IWOC Literature
Create a list of reporters, blogs, facebook groups, etc, to get the word out to
Coordinate quarterly press releases/letters to the editors featuring IWOC talking points

Outside Newsletter Responsible (1)
Work with co-editors inside prison and graphic designers to create a powerful, beautiful, quarterly newsletter written by people in prison and representing the full depths of the IWW's politics
Ensure successful printing and distribution of newsletter to members inside
Send potentially useful contributions to Literature/Media for creation of pamphlets, website articles, etc
Collaborate with Inreach Officers to develop an increasingly strong network of inside writers and artists

Additional Officer Requirements:
Co-Chairs:
Report quarterly to the GEB
Ensure bi-weekly Steering Committee conference calls
Ensure all approved motions are put into a common public document in a folder with approved documents
Ensure planning of annual Mini-Conference and the publishing of Annual IWOC Greetings

Treasurer
Track all finances, keep receipts, make monthly financial reports, write checks with the approval of the Steering Committee to anyone but themselves

Secondary Check Signer
Write checks to the Treasurer when they need to be reimbursed

http://iwoc.noblogs.org/
For more info: https://itsgoingdown.org/new-incarcerated-worker-newsletter-summer-2015/

the INCARCERATED WORKER
Issue 2: Summer 2015
a project of the incarcerated workers organizing committee of the industrial workers of the world
Promoting Proletarian Consciousness as Prisoner Rehabilitation
Kevin "Rashid" Johnson
Since our inception, the NABPP-PC has emphasized the leading role of the proletariat in any genuine revolutionary struggle. In our founding article, "the NABPP-PC: Our Line," we explained this position and contrasted the revolutionary character of the proletariat with the counter-revolutionary character of the lumpen (or "broken") proletariat. That discussion bears quoting at length:
"Many people when presented with the Marxist-Leninist-Maoist idea that only the proletariat can lead in making all-the-way revolutionary class struggle question why it is, and why some other class (without changing its class perspective) cannot lead such a struggle. One reason is because the proletariat is the only class that has no real stake in preserving the class relations of the capitalist system, but has everything to gain in taking control over the social wealth it has itself created by its labor and the tools it uses to create it. Another reason is that the proletariat (in contrast to the lumpen), has the conditioning in patient work, social unity and cooperation necessary to wage the protracted class struggle required to abolish all exploitation
Letter: May 10th Strike Repressed in Nebraska
Chadrick Fitzgerald
Greetings my friends. My name is Chadrick Fitzgerald, IWW membership number X385061. As I write these words, I am sitting in a cell on the SMU gallery in Tecumseh Corrections Facility under investigation for the uprising that took place on 5-10-15. The Nebraska DOC has been run poorly for some time, we have had a number of changes in directors and that's about it. The number of problems are too long to list but somewhere at the top of that list sits overcrowding, lack of programming, and the mistreatment of the inmates.
To give you an idea of how out of control it has become, prison guards themselves have sued the state of Nebraska and won because they were being abused by coworkers via racial slurs at work. The ACLU has threatened to sue over the amount of overcrowding and current living conditions. The inmate population has tried many times to get programming that would help us upon release and time and again, nothing.
There are a few jobs that pay more than $24.00/month ($1.21/day) and they are restricted to less than 200 +/- inmates of
continued on page 10
continued on page 10

Military Initiatives Open Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 7pm

Military Initiatives Organizing Committee

"After 13 Years Of War, Troops Feel Burned Out, Lacking A Sense Of Mission" [Army Times]

Those who understand the necessity for revolutionary change to rid ourselves of the class of capitalists who afflict us every day would do well to consider what action to organize, now, to reach those who serve in the armed forces. They are necessary allies in the class war for human liberation.

That is a "Sense Of Mission" we and our troops together can proudly take hold of.

Panel speakers for the Military Initiatives Organizing Committee
Alan Stolzer: Outreach Coordinator, Military Initiatives Organizing Committee
Claude Copeland: Army Combat Veteran, Iraq; Military Initiatives Organizing Committee and Iraq Veterans Against the War.
Thomas Barton: Publisher, Military Resistance Newsletter

Bluestockings Independent Bookstore & Cafe
172 Allen Street
New York, New York
212-777-6028
Military Initiative: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway,
New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

UPDATED STATEMENT FROM BLACK/NEW AFRIKAN POLITICAL PRISONERS on the "New Black Panther Party" (NBPP) Attack on Dhoruba Bin Wahad

The undersigned current and former Black/New Afrikan political prisoners condemn the vicious assault perpetrated on our comrade Dhoruba Bin Wahad by the security team of a group calling itself the New Black Panther Party at a public event on August 8, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia. We reject any justification or rationalization for this attack on an elder, himself a documented target of COINTELPRO and a former political prisoner who spent 19 years in the state's custody. The "New Black Panther Party" does not represent us; nor does it represent the legacy of the Black Panther Party of which we are proud to have been a part.

We fully support Dhoruba Bin Wahad and view this assault as one committed against all of us. We urge everyone to join us in condemning the attack. We wish our brother a full and speedy recovery.

Herman Bell

Jalil Muntaquin

Robert Seth Hayes

Abdul Majid

Mumia Abu Jamal

Sekou Odinga

Kazi Toure

James Tarik Haskins

(List is still in formation)

TORCH ANTI-FA NETWORK GATHERING IN PHILADELPHIA PA NOV. 7

It is now less than 6 weeks until the TORCH Anti-Fascist Network national conference here in Philly. So finish your travel preparations if you are coming from out of town and send in your registration information.

E-mail PhillyAntifascists@gmail.com for registration forms if you haven't gotten them yet.

The public section of the conference will take place the afternoon and evening of Saturday November 7th at The Rotunda (4014 Walnut Street) in West Philly. We are very excited about all the public events.

The first event, starting at 2:00 PM on Saturday will be a panel discussion and Q&A. The subject of the talk is "Militant Anti-Fascism and the Black Lives Matter Movement" and will include several Anti-Fascists and Black Lives Matter activists discussing the role that Neo-Nazis and White Supremacists, both in and out of uniform, have played in opposing the Black Lives Matter movement and how Anti-Fascists can counter them effectively.

Immediately after the talk at 3:00 PM, we will be hosting a screening of "In Memory of Our Friend Ivan," an hour-long documentary about the life and murder of Russian Anti-Fascist Ivan Khutorskoi who was assassinated in Moscow in 2009. The film was only recently released with English subtitles recently and has not been screened more than a handful of times in the U.S. After the film at 4:00pm we will be showing a short sneak preview of "No Fascist USA," an upcoming documentary about the Anti-Fascist movement in the United States being produced by a member of Antifa Philadelphia.

Both those events are free, though we will be collecting donations for Anti-Fascist political prisoners and those facing legal repression for Anti-Fascist work.

We will then be kicking everyone out for a few hours to get ready for the Show of Unity that evening. Doors will re-open at 6:30. 5 bucks to get in to the show, which goes to the acts and Antifa prisoners.

Christopher Walking (Philly Math Punk)

Leisure Muffin (Just listen. We don't even know.)

Novotore (Chicago Hardcore Hip-Hop)

Not4Prophet of the X-Vandals (NYC Independent Hip-Hop)

Erik Petersen (Mischief Brew) (Philly's favorite son, anarcho-punk-folk laureate and all-around sweetheart)

If you or your crew want to table the show e-mail us to set it up. Look forward to seeing you all for the Conference.

Solidarity,
Antifa Philadelphia

Whispers: Stories from the Street

Note: Not all these stories have been confirmed.

Philadelphia, PA – Date Unknown: Philly KSS member A.J. Olsen pulled a knife on two hardcore kids at a show before fleeing with a fellow Nazi. The nature of the altercation is unknown but KSS has been on the ropes in Philly lately, and the rumored payback that said hardcore kids are looking for may just push them further underground.

Olympia, WA – May 30: Neo-Nazis had been rallying in support of Olympia PD after they shot two unarmed skateboarders who were allegedly shoplifting. After a few non-violent confrontations with Black Lives Matter protestors and Antifascists during the preceding week, the two camps finally clashed on the evening of May 30. Around 20 boneheads from various groups though coalescing around the American Freedom Party, were thoroughly smashed. Antifa and others used baseball bats, fire extinguishers and bottles to drive the Nazis back, smashing their cars up as they tried to escape. There were no arrests.

Pheonix, AZ – June: Anti-Racists and Anti-Fascists counter-protested an Anti-Islam demo outside a mosque.

Spokane, WA – June: Neo-Nazi boneheads chased a black person in an apparent attempted hate crime but were unable to catch them.

Charleston, SC – June: Two confederate monument were vandalized in the wake of the Dylan Roof massacre with Anti-Racist messages.

Ashville, NC – June: Anti-Racists vandalized a statue of Zebulon Vance, a confederate Colonel and Senator, with the phrase "Black Lives Matter."

Philadelphia, PA – June: White racists rallied in South Philadelphia in response to an alleged attack by four black women on someone in the neighborhood. Despite no one being killed, or even seriously injured, the crowd chanted "white lives matter" and spewed thinly veiled segregation language. The event was attended by a city councilman and organized by virulent racist Jack Owens.

Ottawa, – May: Antifascists exposed Neo-Nazi Christopher Brands and successfully campaigned to have him fired from his job at a car dealership.

The Campaign to Bring Mumia Home

August 29th, 2015
From Noelle Hanrahan of Prison Radio:

We are in court demanding immediate lifesaving medical treatment for Mumia Abu-Jamal, and we are going to win.

On Aug. 24, Mumia's lawyers Bret Grote, Legal Director of the Abolitionist Law Center, and co-counsel Robert Boyle filed a preliminary injunction in Abu-Jamal v. Kerestes with Judge Robert Mariani of the Middle District Federal U.S. Court (see link below).
The injunction seeks a federal court order to ensure that prison medical staff provide immediate lifesaving treatment to Mumia.
The prison administration is simply denying Mumia all treatment. Let me be clear: Mumia is weak, his lower extremities still swollen, his skin still severely compromised and raw, and his hepatitis C active and damaging his organs.

Given the severity of Mumia's organ failure (his skin) and indications of additional potential organ damage, our legal action states that withholding treatment is causing immediate and irreparable harm.

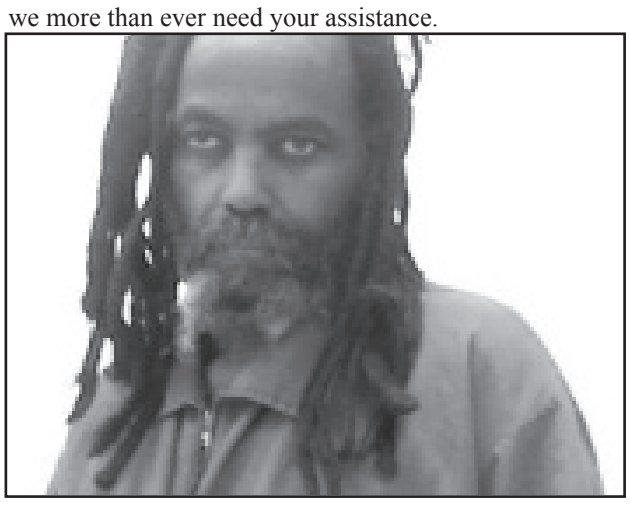
Prison officials have refused to conduct additional viral load blood panels, reveal or conduct additional organ damage assessments, and they are refusing to prescribe simple medications to reduce Mumia's painful and dangerous skin eruptions.

And in an effort to further delay treatment, attorneys for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections have filed briefs opposing the class action lawsuit for hepatitis C treatment filed in June. We expect they will oppose our injunction filed yesterday (8/24) as well.

Treatment for hep C has a 95% cure rate. By withholding medication, the DOC would like to see this become a death sentence.

In addition to the hepatitis C antiviral cure, we are demanding that prison medical personnel re-proscribe Protopic ointment and the mineral supplement Zinc (220 mlligrams per day) as recommended by his physicians to provide immediate relief to Mumia's skin rashes- which have become open wounds.

As Mumia's legal team fights tirelessly for Mumia's life, we more than ever need your assistance.



Mumia Abu-Jamal target of medical mistreatment
Photo by Scott Slager for Democracy Now!

We are amplifying the call for:

1. Immediate treatment of Hep C with the latest Anti-viral drugs that have a 95% cure rate.

2. Treatment of Mumia's skin condition by re-proscribing protopic cream and zinc supplements.

3. In-person medical exams by Mumia's independent physicians.

Go here https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/mumia-abu-jamal-in-danger-treatment-now#/story to help us make these demands reality by giving to Mumia's medical and legal fund now.

Also call the numbers listed in this action guide http://www.prisonradio.org/sites/default/files/letters/pdf/Quick%20Guide%20to%20Prison%20Medical%20Information%20and%20Resources.pdf

See the preliminary injunction:
http://www.prisonradio.org/sites/default/files/letters/pdf/PreliminaryInjunction8-24-15Abu-JamalvKerestes.pdf

Every action and every gift makes a difference

Solidarity,
-The Campaign to Bring Mumia Home

On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide & ARA-LA.

You can find archives of ***Turning the Tide*** at **www.antiracist.org** that go back more than seven years, plus back issues of the ***Black Rider African Intercommunal News Service***.
In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as facebook.com/tideturning, and facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity. You can follow @ara_losangeles on Twitter, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at ara-la.tumblr.com.

URGENT APPEAL

We need your financial support to continue sending the paper free to about 1800 prisoners around CA and the US.

PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

$20 a year payable only to Anti-Racist Action at P.O. Box 1055 in Culver City 90232

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **St:** ___ **Zip:** _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Postage alone for this issue comes to nearly $1000. We would like to increase the size and frequency of Turning the Tide, but we can only do it with your support. If you are a prisoner and can send stamps or get someone outside the walls to subsidize your subscription, please do so. If you work with an info shop or other zine or record distro, please consider ordering a bundle of TTT to distribute; $5 will get you 20 copies. And check out our 100X100 campaign elsewhere in this issue. If you live in L.A. or nearby, we can come to house meetings to speak and collect donations for the paper. Email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

ANTI-RACIST ACTION ENDORSEMENTS IN PACIFICA RADIO ELECTIONS FOR LISTENER & STAFF DELEGATES

Michael Novick of Anti-Racist Action LA is a candidate for re-election as a listener delegate on the Local Station Board (LSB) of Pacifica Radio's KPFK 90.7 FM in Los Angeles. ARA is endorsing him and the entire Grassroots Community Radio Coalition slate (see below). ARA also endorses former political prisoner Lynne Stewart, health broadcaster Bob Lederer and the rest of the Justice & Unity Coalition at WBAI in NYC. If you're a listener sponsor in LA, vote for Aryana Gladney, Lawrence Reyes, Michael Novick and the other Grassroots candidates to ensure that anti-racist voices and community resistance has a place on the FM dial and that KPFK serves the people to survive.

VOTE FOR GRASSROOTS CANDIDATES ON YOUR KPFK LSB BALLOT

Human Rights, Labor, Peace, Environmental and Social Justice activists for the Pacifica Mission

Grassroots Coalition candidates listed in alphabetical order. Be sure to vote for them all, including write-ins, in your order of preference as the top 18 on the KPFK Local Station Board ballot you receive, and mail it in, or cast your e-ballot, right now! *LSB #LSB & PNB member

Top row: **Charles Anderson*** retired worker, OC activist, **Kelly Barnes** (write-in) Exec., healthcare 501c3, **Lydia Brazon#** PNB Chair, **Jaye Cho** Bayan-USA, **Michael Corral** retired CPA, FSLN, **Rose Mary Elizondo** retired planning assoc. SCG, **Aryana Gladney*** non-profit fundraiser, Black Riders, **Nancy Lawrence** eco-socialist, Bus Riders Union, **Richard Macias** union carpenter, Latinos for Bernie

Bottom row: **Brenda Medina#** union organizer, **Diana Medina** counselor CSUN, **Jack Neff** (write-in) paralegal, MLK Coalition, **Michael Novick*** UTLA, Anti-Racist Action, **Reza Pour** Prog. Iranians, **Schyna Pour** social worker, **Lawrence Reyes#** Rehab counselor, SEIU, Puerto Rican Alliance, **Alise Sochaczewski** Union Healthworker, **Ron Spriestersbach*** NASA (retired), Senior Scholar on Global Warming.

(Affiliations for ID purposes only.)

WE STAND TOGETHER FOR:

▪Peace with Justice - No 'Humanitarian' War ▪Migrant Rights ▪Workers' Rights & Labor Solidarity
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GCRC staff candidates: Jose Benavides, LSB Chair Tej Grewall, Charlene Muhammad & Fernando Velazquez

www.gcrc-socal.org info@gcrc-socal.org, 323-540-GCRC

100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of Turning the Tide

Over its 26+ year publishing history, ***TTT*** has been published in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we print four 8-page issues a year. Now, to restore bi-monthly publication, we have launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed **"100X100."**

We are looking for one hundred people who will donate $100 a year, or $10/mo, to make it possible for ***TTT*** to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing nearly 2000 copies of each issue into the prisons. You can donate online at ***http://gofundme.com/eugzgg.***

Turning the Tide doesn't print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps; their contribution more often comes by writing articles, letters and poems or sending in drawings. Often, they pass the copy of ***TTT*** that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners.**Prisoners, if you can find donors outside prison to subsidize your sub, that would help a lot**

If you'd like to see ***Turning the Tide*** more frequently, if you want to contribute to breaking down the walls of isolation and separation imposed by the prison system, please contribute. If you can't manage $100 all at once, you could donate $10 a month. But any donation you make can help. Postage costs for a single issue of TTT are almost $1000 and climbing. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, Twitter followers, and email contacts. Everything helps.

If the campaign is successful, we will begin publishing every other month in 2016. Postage is our biggest expense. Nobody gets paid at ***TTT.*** But the Postal Service is not so generous. We have a handful of people who are sustainers, making a monthly donation, a larger number of people who subscribe once a year or so. LA supporters could set up house meetings, where the editor will pitch to your friends for support. The future of ***Turning the Tide*** is in your hands. Now, while you're thinking about it, go to:

http://gofundme.com/eugzgg

and donate. Then share it with your contacts. With your help, ***Turning the Tide*** can step up to the "urgency of now" -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, colonialism, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible. If you think ***TTT*** is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to **Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.**

African intercommunal News Service

BLACK RIDERS

New Generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense

under the leadership of General T.A.C.O. presents:

Panther Power Radio

http://www.blogtalkradio.com/str8uprealtalk/2015/09/02/panther-power-radio

Tuesdays, 5 PM Pacific, 6 PM Mountain Time
7 PM Central Time 8 PM Eastern

Panther Power Radio will discuss topics relative to armed self-defense against pig police terrorism and the corrupt prison-industrial complex. We will also discuss community organization for empowerment & much more to become a free, self determined people!

CALL IN: 347-677-0917

Contact Info for Black Riders

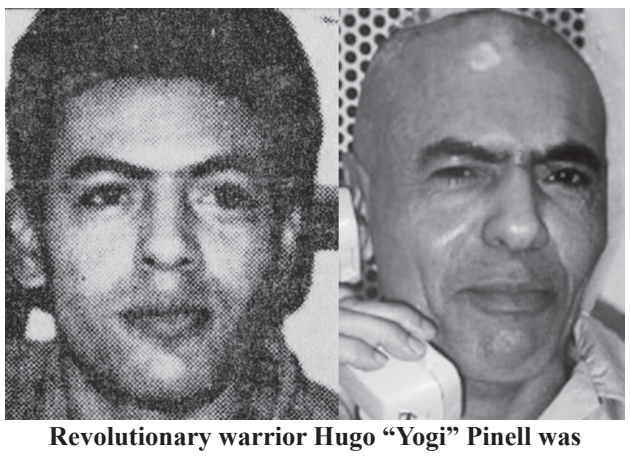
To join now, you can reach the Black Riders Liberation Party, new generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, at PO Box 8297, Los Angeles CA 90008, blackriders1996@gmail.com or by calling 602-842-2757 (BRLP), or on facebook, Black-Riders-Liberation-Party twitter: @blackriders1996 Instagram: blackriders1996

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE! SALUTES TO THE SOLDIERS OF SPIRIT IN STRUGGLE FROM THE CELL BLOCK TO THE STREETS!

by Black Riders Liberation Party
Minister of Public Relations, E Da Ref

The Black Riders Liberation Party would like to commemorate and continue the spirit and struggle of Hugo Yogi Pinell. On the 12th of Black August 2015, the Revolutionary warrior comrade Hugo "Yogi" Pinell was brutally assassinated in New Folsom State Prison in California. He was the longest held political prisoner in history, serving 50 years, over 40 of which were in solitary confinement, and was a powerful practitioner of prison abolition. He pushed and promoted the spirit of resistance for 40+ years. In 1968 he was convicted of assault for defending himself against an aggressive attack by prison guard and was transferred to another California state prison. In June 1970, he was convicted of a similar act of resistance and transferred to the California Correctional Center in Soledad, California. At Soledad, he was awaiting trial on charges for another physical altercation with a correctional officer in December 1970. He was involved in a victorious act of resistance March 3, 1971 in Soledad, as well as the rebellion with the great George Jackson in San Quentin Black August 21, 1971; which led to the San Quentin Six case. This 16-month trial was the longest in the state's history at the time and was dubbed "The Longest Trial" by Time magazine.

Hugo Pinell was born March 10, 1945 in Nicaragua with the aura, energy and spirit of Rigoberto López Pérez, Augusto César Sandino, (and later Carlos Fonseca), the Sandinistas and other freedom fighters in Nicaragua who smashed on the colonizers! This is the struggle Hugo Pinell represented. In the confines of the concentration camps and prison plantations, in the torturous conditions of the solitary confinement chambers known as the hole



Revolutionary warrior Hugo "Yogi" Pinell was brutally assassinated in New Folsom Prison after a lifetime in solitary couldn't break him.

or the soul breaker; is what creates this urge to resist and rebel against the forces of fascism. These are the same conditions that the Black Riders Liberation Party emerged from. We are not only in solidarity with all political prisoners and prisoners of war, but we actively engage in the struggle alongside them with the development of a nationwide prison chapter to transform these concentration camps into revolutionary schools of thought; while turning the streets into revolutionary bases of operation to carry out the actions to support the comrades' ideas inside the prison. The Black Riders Break the Lock Program provided support for many inmates serving basic needs and raising consciousness. On Black August. 30 2013, (the 53rd day of the Prison Hunger Strike) The Black Riders marched on the CDCr Parole Office in Los Angeles to push the 5 core demands of the California Prison Hunger Strikers.

A month after the assassination of Hugo Pinell, a small but vital victory was accomplished in the struggle for human rights and Prison abolition. A settlement was reached in the federal class action suit filed in 2012, effectively ending indefinite long-term solitary confinement in CDCr and greatly limiting the prison administration's ability to practice this inhumane torture tactic on the inmates in the California concentration camp facilities. It is estimated that between 1,500 and 2,000 prisoners will be released from SHU (security housing units/ super max) within one year of this settlement. The 3rd core demand of the Prisoner Hunger Strikers was for the CDCr to comply with the US Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons 2006 Recommendations Regarding an End to Long-Term Solitary Confinement. To Release inmates to general prison population who have been warehoused indefinitely in SHU for the last 10 to 40 years (and counting).

Hugo Pinell is an example of what long term solitary confinement can create. The SHU Supermax, and Solitary confinement, known as the soul breaker; cannot break the soul of a solder with nothing to lose. That's why they had to murder Hugo, because the psychological terror tactics failed to break his soul and his spirit. His ideas and the vision he had for the liberation struggle f all oppressed people is eternal. His energy and spirit and influence are eternal. The Power of the people putting pressure on the system agitated the forces of fascism to react with hostility. Now they are forced to meet one of the peoples/ prisoners demands, out of fear of the response of rage by the people and the prisoners. Hugo Pinell made the ultimate sacrifice. And victory after victory we the Black Riders Liberation Party will continue the legacy of liberation struggle for generations to come.

All Power To The People
Who Don't Fear Freeedom!

Urban Guerrilla R.A.P.

by the BRLP

Panther Power Radio will also include... Black Riders Music.

Black Rider music has an artistic manifestation of a new Hip-Hop genre. It is a versatile blend of Revolutionary Politics, African Culture/Spirituality, Military Kung Fu Guerrilla Theatre and Inter-Communal Class Struggle. This diverse blend of concepts has been forged in the flames of Revolutionary Resistance and crafted under the pressure of state repression. Black Riders are proud to introduce the most advanced forms of musical martial science to the world with what we call Urban Guerrilla R.A.P.

Urban: Signifying the Black lumpen proletariat, in the inner city ghettos across the globe.

Guerrilla: representing the unconventional, military, structure of the group, displaying an example to educate the people about the success of militant resistance across the globe throughout history.

Revolutionary: Black Rider Music's purpose is to use the science of vibration to invoke the rebellious spirit of our ancestors upon our people so we can continue the legacy of liberation struggle and rid the universe of imperialism.

African: Through music we will develop knowledge of self among Black people scattered across the planet. Africa is the original cradle of civilization and humanity. Hip-Hop started with the world's first drum, therefore Africa is the birthplace of Hip-Hop.

Propaganda: Black Riders believe that all attacks on socially redeeming Hip-Hop Rap songs should stop. We believe that Urban Guerrilla Rappers help guide us to liberation by outlining the horrible plight that Black people suffer in this new era of crisis. We will bombard this decadent society with images and sound images promoting the total annihilation of Capitalism and white supremacy.

The Urban Guerrilla R.A.P. HIP-HOP Edutainment Sector: This is specifically designed to hone in on special skill sets that can and must be utilized to illustrate our people's struggle across the globe.

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

From the Editor: Introducing a new feature in ***Turning The Tide***. "Know Your Enemy" will focus on reprinting and analyzing material from various enemies of the people so that we can better understand the nature of their enmity, their plans for maintaining or obtaining control, and the lessons we can learn and counter-measures we can take in our own defense. This first installment focuses on what Kristian Williams calls "*Our Enemies in Blue*" -- so-called law enforcement, armed protectors and servants of property, white supremacy, colonialism and capitalist exploitation. What follows is a condensed excerpt from a much longer piece by the deputy chief for counter-terrorism of the LAPD, historically and currently one of the most militarized police forces in the US, and one deeply embedded in the national security state.

This piece, propaganda though it is, was written for internal consumption by law enforcement management professionals in Police Chief magazine, and therefore reveals certain truths normally hidden in corporate media and liberal analysis of "police reform." As Comrade George Jackson said in the context of the prison system, long before it became the "prison-industrial complex" or New Jim Crow system of mass incarceration of Black and Brown people that it is today, "reform" is the modern name for "fascism." Failure to understand that reality by prisoner rights advocates is what gave the state a free hand to create prisons within prisons and to increase the prison population by a factor of 10 times since the 60s. We cannot afford a similar failure to grasp that reality at this time of intensified mass action against police racism.

What are the author's key points?

1) Law enforcement is embedded in a sophisticated global counter-insurgency, population control and state surveillance strategy. They are part of the war-making apparatus of the Empire. You can no more demilitarize the police than you could demilitarize the Army.

2) "Community policing" isn't an antidote to "militarization." It's a key part of the military strategy of the police, as front-line counter-insurgency combatants, to identify, isolate, and criminalize potential threats as "terrorists," and to contain, control and enlist as allies sectors of the community that might otherwise be influenced by "radicals."

3) Tactics developed for dealing with radicals in faith communities, street organizations or conscious revolutionaries are extended to control the general population. LAPD spying -- Suspicious Activity Reports, Fusion Centers, etc. -- grows out of state attacks on groups like the **Black Riders Liberation Party (named --and slandered-- in this report)**. The movement must build conscious solidarity with such targets of repression to deal with more generalized surveillance.

4) The police have moved from a preventive, defensive stance to an offensive operational approach, "predictive policing" designed to identify, entrap, and disrupt *potential* threats that may have a radicalizing influence on larger populations.

What can we learn from this? We need effective strategies of our own. Do we have a vision of where we want to move political reality in this country over the next five years, say by 2020? Huey Newton said political power is the ability to define a phenomenon and make it act in a desired manner. We must know what manner we desire this system to act in, to exert power over it. We need to analyze sectors of the population, in order to unite popular and potentially revolutionary sectors, and divide, isolate and weaken sectors that identify with oppressors. Studying how the enemy proposes to do the mirror opposite -- divide, conquer and incorporate us -- will be vital to that process.***--Editor***

Condensed Excerpts from:

Policing Terrorism in the US: The LAPD's Convergence Strategy

By Michael P. Downing, Deputy Chief, Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Intelligence Bureau, LAPD

Local law enforcement agencies face complex problems with the emergence of global criminal networks and national security threats. Modern criminals are transnational, adaptive and linked by networks. Agencies such as the LAPD are developing equally adaptive and networked strategies. Their linchpin is 'convergence,' the process of bringing different elements together to achieve a result. As an example, the US Army's Human Terrain Project puts anthropologists with combat units in Afghanistan and Iraq to help the military understand local cultures.

This concept translates to policing in the context of counterterrorism. Police have to bolster old strengths, such as investigative skills, while acquiring new information. These developments are fostered by collaboration. This article highlights LAPD efforts to achieve convergence to prevent terrorist activities.

A New Reality: Global Events with Local Effects

Approaches that emphasize prevention must converge with new ones that focus on prediction. Systems to protect sensitive information must converge with efforts to cooperate with law enforcement. Self-contained methods of operation must give way to strategic relationships and an international consciousness anchored in local communities. Groups that hew to extreme ideologies and embrace violence can achieve global reach.

The terrorist threat can be separated into three categories: homegrown terrorists inspired by an ideology promoted by al Qaeda or others; terrorists who come to raise money for operations here; and terrorists who have footholds in the US and overseas and operate in both arenas.

In LAPD's experience, the principal threats are local, self-generating, and self-directed. If there are direct connections overseas, these are likely initiated by local actors. This isn't intended to minimize the international threat, but a caution that local threats will increase.

Strengths of Local Agencies in Counterterrorism

Covering 3.79 million sq. mi. with 300+ million people, the US has 3000 counties and 2500 cities with 10,000 or more people, 16 federal intelligence agencies and 17,500 local law enforcement agencies with 750,000+ officers. This presents a challenge to collaboration, but an opportunity for expertise to be developed and shared. Whether it's realized will be decided by how effectively agencies collaborate—with each other, the private sector, academia, and their communities.

The strengths of law enforcement are drawn from the powers of search, seizure of evidence, and arrest; a community policing infrastructure; ability to share and analyze information; ability to identify and interpret suspect behaviors; and relationships that can carry an investigation to completion.

Local police also add critical speed, resources, and numbers. They can deploy rapidly and summon more forces if needed. Managers in the field are accustomed to making decisions in dynamic high-stakes incidents. The outcome is officers and investigators with breadth and depth of field experience.

In the terrorism arena, local agencies bring experience in investigating individuals and enterprises. The model used to investigate organized crime, gangs, and narcotics trafficking is applicable to investigation of terrorists. Local police from larger antiterrorism units are contributing to the knowledge base of state and federal colleagues. These cases have earned local police a seat at the intelligence table.

Information sharing has improved vertically between the FBI and state and local PDs, and horizontally among PDs. Changes in communication fall into three categories: culture, capability, and awareness.

Culture: Local agencies are critical to intelligence efforts, which blend with their mission to detect and deter crime. The change in culture has been reflected in studies and initiatives, including the National Strategy for Information Sharing.

Capability: Analytic capabilities have improved because of 58 fusion centers in 46 states.

Awareness: Local police are better able to recognize behaviors consistent with crimes related to terrorism.

Local Agencies Intelligence Gathering and Analysis

Officers from every major police intelligence unit have formed an Intelligence Commanders Group (ICG), part of the Major Cities Chiefs Association. 64 top-level intelligence commanders share intel and ensure interagency cooperation. In May 2008, this group delivered a position paper, Twelve Tenets to Prevent Crime and Terrorism, that detailed the priorities of law enforcement. It's an example of how police are collaborating to influence homeland security policy.

Growth of local intelligence-gathering must be proportionate with safeguards against abuse. Law enforcement must define those they suspect will commit a terrorist act. This must be executed with a precision that inspires the support of the US population so local residents will partner with police in pursuit of their mission.

Support and trust of the public are essential to law enforcement strategies aimed at countering extremist ideologies and influence. The primary objective remains to hunt suspects and disrupt their operational capability, but the broader strategy must include efforts that target terrorists' motivations.

Outreach and partnership efforts aim to create a network of individuals who feel it's in their best interest to create an environment hostile to criminals of all stripes. This can be achieved by providing excellent police service and building solid relationships with community members.

By getting communities, including those that may be breeding grounds for violent ideologies, to buy into the idea that local agencies operate in the communities' best interests, these agencies foster an environment in which tips can increase the ability to gather information.

Recent LAPD Counterterrorism Cases

The LAPD created its Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Intelligence Bureau in 2003. It has 300 officers dedicated to counterterrorism, criminal-intelligence gathering, and community mobilization. It has four goals:

Prevent terrorism by sharing information aimed at disrupting terrorists' operational capability and addressing causes associated with the motivational component

Protect infrastructure by leveraging private resources and hardening targets

Pursue terrorists and criminal enterprises that support them

Prepare citizens for consequences associated with terrorist operations

The LAPD has gained considerable counterterrorism case experience. The following cases are but a sample.

Hezbollah Funding Case: The arrest of a terrorist funding group by a task force of the DEA and the LAPD working alongside the FBI illustrated the interrelation of criminal acts and the funding of terrorism. This group raised money for Hezbollah by selling narcotics.

Black Rider Case: The Black Rider Liberation Party, a spinoff of the Black Panther Party, threatened to take over four police stations in LA and kill as many officers as possible in furtherance of its black separatist anti-government agenda. Traditional tactics, including surveillance (technical and nontechnical), source development, search warrants, and introduction of an informant, resulted in arrest and prosecution of this domestic terrorist group and recovery of large-caliber automatic and semiautomatic weapons; a military handbook on intelligence and interrogation; night vision goggles; bulletproof vests; knives; a crossbow; a police scanner; and manuals on police field operations, sniper procedures, and bioterrorism.

Jam'yyat Al-Islam Al-Saheeh: an example of prison radicalization, the nexus between street crimes and terrorism, and how homegrown terrorists are inspired by ideology but have no affiliation with a larger terrorist organization. Local police are key to identifying terrorism suspects who weren't on the federal radar. Kevin Lamar James was a former Hoover Street Crip who, in prison, founded a group called Jam'yyat Al-Islam Al-Saheeh (JIS). He converted a fellow inmate who, once released, was instructed to recruit others for terrorist operations against the US and Israel. In 2005, the four-person cell started researching military installations, Israeli offices, and synagogues, and funded its operations through gas station robberies—orchestrated by James from prison.

Animal Liberation Front: The ALF is an extremist group whose members have committed arson, vandalism, and other crimes. Leaders cloak themselves in the First Amendment while leading a criminal lifestyle, such as robbery to sustain themselves and the criminal enterprise. This enables local agencies to catch the leadership for crimes such as burglaries. The ALF's objective is to eliminate animal euthanasia and use of animals in lab testing. Elements have become more violent.

LAPD Counterterrorism Programs

Even as LAPD gains experience, it must keep improving to stay ahead of the threat. The LAPD must develop ways to forge partnerships. Here are some areas where LAPD has concentrated its efforts.

Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs): The LAPD developed Suspicious Activity Reports for reporting suspected terrorism-related incidents and tying them into information collection systems and intelligence analysis. This is the first program in the US to create a standard for terrorism-related modus operandi codes. and is being rolled out nationally. Local, state, and federal agencies will have a common standard for collecting, measuring, and sharing information about suspected terrorism. They can become the bread and butter of fusion centers, and inspire boots on the ground and the community to get involved in counterterrorism.

Operation Archangel: More than 85% of critical infrastructure in the US is privately owned. In partnership with Homeland Security, the LAPD implemented Operation Archangel, a convergence of the private sector with the police documented in a film distributed to 64 cities and Congress.

National Counter-Terrorism Academy: The LAPD piloted the National Counter-Terrorism Academy (NCTA), created by local agencies for local law enforcement. 60 police and private security personnel received an overview of terrorist threats and were aided via intelligence-led policing (ILP) strategies to counter them. LAPD has also proposed the creation of a National Consortium on Intelligence-Led Policing as a training resource for state and local PDs.

Hydra: a training system that tests and improves decision-making of personnel during simulated incidents. The first in the US grants LAPD access to training scenarios of 32 installations throughout the world.

Terrorism Liaison Officers: Terrorism liaison officers (TLOs) are casting an ever-wider net to train more people in the city as public data collectors. They are trained on how to report suspicious behavior that has a nexus to terrorism, an effort to institutionalize counterterrorism awareness throughout LAPD. The goal is to blend crime-fighting and counterterrorism seamlessly..

Additional Capabilities

Information Sharing: Working in concert with regional and federal partners in the seven counties served by the Joint Regional Intelligence Center, the LAPD continues to build its capacity to collect, fuse, analyze, and disseminate both strategic and operational intelligence. LAPD's Counter-Terrorism Bureau's Major Crimes Division and Emergency Services Division, as well as the Joint Regional Intelligence Center and the Real-Time Analysis and Critical Response Division, create a superhighway of information and intelligence aimed at predictive policing.

RPPICS: the LAPD's **Regional Public Private Infrastructure Collaboration System** enhances communication with the private sector. This converges technology with the goal of hardening targets.

Human Intelligence: LAPD created a human source development unit to increase its ability to develop actionable intelligence in specific areas—a measure taken to understand the environment of homegrown extremists and what to target.

Cyber Investigations: The LAPD has developed the ability to hunt for radicalization on the Internet—a capability that provides a means of identifying and gathering information on potential threats. Information gleaned from this source and combined with an understanding of operational indicators is critical to articulating suspicion and justifying increased application of enforcement measures.

Conclusion

Police hold the key to defeating terrorism in the US. Through multi-jurisdiction, multi-agency efforts, police can cast trip wires to determine whether individuals represent a threat that warrants investigation. Agencies need to be flexible enough to collaborate. They need trusting partnerships to maximize law enforcement resources. They need to work with communities to counter extremism. Policing must fight crime and disorder while creating hostile environments for terrorists.

Local police are best positioned to observe behaviors that have a nexus to terrorism. LAPD's goal is to institutionalize counterterrorism efforts throughout the communities it serves. Converging community policing and counterterrorism strategies under the philosophy of intelligence-led policing will focus law enforcement and equip agencies to partner with communities.

From The Police Chief, vol. LXXVI, no. 2, February 2009.
(C) International Association of Chiefs of Police, 515 North Washington St, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Excerpts from

Until We Win: Black Labor and Liberation in the Disposable Era

by Kali Akuno
http://www.counterpunch.org/2015/09/04/until-we-win-black-labor-and-liberation-in-the-disposable-era/

Since the rebellion in Ferguson, Missouri in August 2014, Black people throughout the US have been grappling with a number of critical questions such as why are Black people being hunted and killed every 28 hours by various operatives of the law? What must we do to end these attacks and liberate ourselves? There are concrete answers to these questions, firmly grounded in the capitalist dynamics that structure the brutal European settler-colonial project we live in, and how Afrikan people have historically been positioned within it.

The Value of Black Life

There was a time in the US Empire, when Afrikan, aka, Black people, were deemed extremely valuable to the "American project." This was the era of chattel slavery, when the labor provided by Afrikan people was indispensable to the settler-colonial enterprise, accounting for nearly half the value produced within its holdings and exchanged in "domestic" and international markets. Our ancestors were held and regarded as prize horses or bulls, something to be treated with a degree of "care" (enough to ensure they were able to work and reproduce their labor, and produce value for their enslavers) because of their centrality to the processes of material production.

What mattered was Black labor power and how it could be harnessed and controlled, not Afrikan humanity. Afrikan humanity didn't matter – it had to be denied to create and sustain the rationale and dynamics that allowed for the commodification of human beings. These included armed militias and slave patrols, iron-clad social clauses like the "one-drop" rule, the slave codes, vagrancy laws, and a complex mix of laws and social customs aimed at oppressing, controlling and exploiting Black life and labor to the maximum degree.

The correlation between capital accumulation (profit) and the value of Black life to the overall system has remained consistent throughout the US settler-colonial project, despite shifts in production regimes (from agricultural, to industrial, to service and finance). The more value (profits) Black labor produces, the more Black lives are valued. The less value Black people produce, the less Black lives are valued. When Black lives are valued, they're secured enough to allow for reproduction (at least); when they aren't, they can be and have been readily discarded.

The Age of Disposability

We're struggling through a transformative era of the global capitalist system. Over the past 40 years, the dynamics have produced a coordinated system of resource acquisition, cheap labor, production, marketing and consumption on a global scale. The automated and computerized expansion has resulted in millions, if not billions, of people being displaced through two broad processes: from "traditional" methods of life sustaining production (mainly farming), and from their ancestral homelands (with people being forced to move to large cities and "foreign" territories to survive). As the ILO reported in its World Employment and Social Outlook 2015 paper, this renders millions to the status of surplus or expendable.

Capitalist logic doesn't allow for surplus populations to be sustained long. They have to be reabsorbed into value-producing mechanisms, or disposed of. Events such as the disintegration of Yugoslavia, genocide in Burundi and Rwanda, never-ending wars in Zaire/Congo and central Afrika, the mass displacement of farmers in Mexico indicate the system doesn't posses the capacity to absorb surplus populations and maintain its equilibrium.

The dominant actors in the global economy – multinational corporations, the trans-national capitalist class, state managers – are in crisis mode trying to figure out how to manage this massive surplus in a politically justifiable (but expedient) manner.

This incapacity to manage crisis caused by capitalism itself is witnessed by numerous examples of haphazard intervention at managing the rapidly expanding number of displaced peoples More starkly, direct disposal experiments are also deepening and expanding against Afrikans in Colombia, Haitians in the Dominican Republic, Sub-Saharan Afrikans in Libya, Indigenous peoples in the Andes, Palestinians in Gaza, Adivasis in India, Rohingya's in Myanmar and Bangladesh, and the list goes on.

Accompanying this is xenophobia targeted at migrants on a world scale, pitting the victims of imperialism against one other, as has been witnessed in South Africa. The capitalist system is demonstrating that it no longer possesses the capacity to absorb newly dislocated populations into the international working class (proletariat). It's also becoming harder for the ruling class to sustain material benefits traditionally awarded to the most loyal subjects of capitalism's global empire, the working classes in Western Europe and settlers in the US, Canada, and Australia.

When capitalism can't expand and absorb it must shift towards "correction and contraction" – excluding and disposing of surpluses that can't be absorbed or consumed at a profit. We're now clearly in an era that will have genocidal consequences for the surplus populations of the world if left unaddressed.

This dynamic brings us back to the US and the crisis of jobs, mass incarceration and the escalating number of extrajudicial police killings confronting Black people.

The Black Surplus Challenge/Problem

Afrikan, or Black, people in the US are one of these surplus populations. Black people are no longer a central force in the productive process, because those industries that haven't completely off-shored no longer need large quantities of cheap labor due to automation. Agricultural industries have been mechanized or require super-exploited labor from migrant workers.

Campaigns to reduce the cost of Black labor in the US have failed, due to the militant resistance of Black labor and the ability of Black working class communities to "make ends meet" by receiving survival resources from the underground economy. (The underground economy has exploded worldwide since the '70s due to unregulated service economies and the illicit drug trade, now vital to major financial institutions).

The social dimensions of white supremacy constrain the opportunities of Black workers in service industries and retail, as significant numbers of non-Black consumers are uncomfortable receiving direct services from Black people (except for custodial and security services). These are the root causes of what many are calling the "Black jobs crisis." Lack of jobs translates into a lack of need for Black people, which equates into the wholesale devaluation of Black life. This isn't a new problem – Black people have constituted an escalating problem in search of a solution for the US ruling class since the 1960's, due to militant struggle (through instruments like the League of Revolutionary Black Workers), strikes, other forms of industrial action, resistance to repression and hundreds of urban rebellions.

This occurred at the same time that the international regime of integrated production, trade management, financial integration, and currency convergence ushered in the present phase of globalization. This regime obliterated most protectionist production and allowed international capital to scour the world for cheaper labor and raw materials without fear of inter-imperialist rivalry. Thus, Black labor was hitting its stride just as capital was finding secure ways to eliminate its dependence upon it.

Global investments by US capital reduced the need for domestic industrial production, which limited the ability of Black labor to disrupt the system. As US capital reduced its domestic production, it intentionally elevated competition between white workers and Afrikan and other non-settler sources of labor for the crumbs it was still doling out. The settler-world view, position, and systems of entitlement possessed by the vast majority of white workers compelled them to support the overall initiatives of capital and to block non-white labor when there were opportunities to do so during this period. This provided the social base for the "silent majority," "law and order," "tuff on crime," "war on drugs," "war on gangs and thugs" campaigns that dominated the national political landscape from the late 1960's, that led to mass incarceration, racist drug laws, and militarized policing that have terrorized Afrikan (and Indigenous, Xicano, Puerto Rican, etc.) communities since the 1970's.

To deal with the crisis of Black labor redundancy and mass resistance the ruling class responded by a strategy of limited incorporation, counterinsurgency, and mass containment. Limited incorporation sought to divide the Black community by class. Counterinsurgency divided and weakened Black organizations. Containment resulted in millions of Black people being re-enslaved and warehoused in prisons throughout the US empire.

The costs of mass incarceration have become unprofitable and unsustainable. Experiments with alternative forms of incarceration (like digitally monitored home detainment) and spatial isolation of the Afrikan surplus population to the suburbs and exurbs currently abound, but no new comprehensive strategy has been devised by the ruling class to solve the problem of what to do with the Black surplus population problem. From events like the catastrophe following Katrina and the hundreds of Afrikans being extra-judicially killed by law enforcement it's clear that Black life is becoming more disposable.

A Potential Path of Resistance

Since the dawn of the Afrikan slave trade and the development of the mercantile plantations and chattel slavery, Black people resisted their enslavement and the systemic logic and dynamics of the capitalist system itself. To what extent can Black people be the agents of their own liberation? Merely being the object or appendage of someone else's project only leads to a disposable future. Black people have to forge their own future, a self-determining course of action.

Self-determination and social liberation, how do we get there? How will we take care of our own material needs (food, water, shelter, clothing, health care, defense, jobs, etc.)? How will we express our political independence? There are no easy or cookie cutter answers.

However, there are some general principles. We need to build a mass movement that focuses on organizing autonomous social projects as much as initiatives that apply transformative pressure on the state and corporations. "You're on your own," is the only rationale the system has the capacity to process. To the system, Black people can accept their fate, or go to hell. We have to create our own options and eliminate the threat that confronts us.

Autonomous projects are initiatives that seek to create a democratic economy around sustainable institutions that satisfy people's basic needs through social solidarity and direct democracy, that put the needs of people before the needs of profit. They are sustained by people collectivizing their resources through dues paying membership, income sharing, resource sharing, time banking, to amass resources. These range from community farms (developing the capacity to feed thousands of people) to people's self-defense networks to non-market housing projects to cooperatives. To ensure that these aren't Black capitalist enterprises, they must be built democratically from the ground up and owned, operated, and controlled by workers and consumers, as"serve the people" or "survival" programs that help people attain a degree of autonomy and self-rule. Our challenge is marshaling enough resources and organizing these projects on a large enough scale to eventually meet the material needs of nearly 40 million people, and overcoming the pressures that will be brought to bear on these institutions by the forces of capital to either criminalize and crush them or co-opt them and reincorporate them into the capitalist market if they survive.

Our pressure initiatives must focus on creating enough democratic social space for us to organize ourselves in a self-determined manner. We should be under no illusion that the system can be reformed. Capitalism has demonstrated an ability to absorb disruptive social forces and their demands – when it has ample surpluses. The capitalist system has essentially run out of surpluses, and therefore does not possess the flexibility that it once did.

Because real profits have declined since the late '60s, capitalism has resorted to operating on a parasitic basis, dismantling the social welfare state, privatizing social resources, eliminating institutions of social solidarity (like unions), eliminating safety standards, promoting monopoly, and running financial markets like casinos.

Our objectives must be structural and necessitate nothing less than complete social transformation. To press for our goals we must exert maximum pressure by organizing mass campaigns that are strategic and tactically flexible, including mass protest methods, direct action, boycotts, non-compliance, occupations, and various types of people's assemblies. The challenges are not being subordinated to someone else's agenda – in particular that of the Democratic party.

The combination of these efforts will amount to the creation of Black Autonomous Zones to serve as centers for collective survival, defense, self-sufficiency and social solidarity. However, they aren't sufficient in themselves. We also have to build a revolutionary international movement. We aren't going to transform the world on our own. Black people in the US aren't the only people confronting massive displacement, disposability, and genocide.

Our Autonomous Zones must link and unite with oppressed, exploited and marginalized peoples, social sectors and movements throughout the US and the world, Indigenous communities, Xican@s and other communities from the Caribbean, and Central and South America. We must build alliances with poor working class whites. It's essential that we serve as an alternative (or counterweight) to the reactionary and outright fascist socialization and influences the white working class is constantly bombarded with.

Our Autonomous Zones should serve as new fronts of class struggle that unite forces presently separated by white supremacy, xenophobia, hierarchy, oppression and hatred. We have to unite on the basis of a global anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, and anti-colonial program that centers the liberation of Indigenous, colonized, and oppressed peoples and the total social and material emancipation of all those who labor and create the value that drives human civilization. We must do so by creating a regenerative economic system that harmonizes human production and consumption with the limits of the Earth's biosphere and the needs of all our extended relatives – the non-human species who occupy 99.9 percent of our ecosystem. This is no small task, but our survival as a people and as a species depends upon it.

The imbalance of forces in favor of capital largely dictates that this to be done from the "bottom up" through radical social movements. These social movements must challenge capital at every turn, while building up social and material reserves for the frontal assaults that will be launched by the forces of reaction. The forces of liberation are going to have to prepare themselves and all progressive forces for a prolonged battle to destroy the repressive arms of the state. As recent events Greece painfully illustrate, our international movement will have to simultaneously win, transform, and dismantle the capitalist state to secure the democratic space necessary for a revolutionary movement to accomplish the most minimal of its objectives.

Return to the Source

Capitalism, colonialism, imperialism, and white supremacy have consistently tried to reduce African people to objects, tools, chattel, and cheap labor. Despite this, Afrikan people never lost sight of their humanity, never lost sight of their own value, and never conceded defeat.

In the age of mounting human surplus and the devaluation of life, Afrikan people are going to have to call on the strengths of our ancestors and the lessons learned in over 500 years of struggle. Building a self-determining future based on self-respect, self-reliance, social solidarity, cooperative development and internationalism is a way forward that offers us the chance to survive and thrive in the 21st century and beyond

Kali Akuno is the Producer of ***"An American Nightmare: Black Labor and Liberation",*** *a joint documentary project of Deep Dish TV and Cooperation Jackson. He's the co-founder and co-director of Cooperation Jackson, and co-author of "Operation Ghetto Storm" better known as the "Every 28 Hours" report. Kali can be reached at kaliakuno@gmail.com or on Twitter @KaliAkuno.*

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★ Dec.12, 1:30p, meet Grassroots candidates for KPFK LSB, 3916 Sepulveda
★ Dec.12, 5p Black Lives Matter benefit film 301 N. Orange Grove,Pasadena 91103
★ Dec.13, 2p, Fight White Supremacy, ARA event, 5278 W Pico Bl., L.A. 90019
★ Dec. 100X100 Fundraising Campaign for TTT gofundme.com/eugzgg
★ Mon, Jan. 4, 2016 Ballot due date for KPFK LSB election: See www.gcrc-socal.org
★ Jan. 11, 12n-2p, ICUJP protest of torture to shut down Guantanamo on its 11th anniversary. Downtown Fed, Bldg, 300 North Los Angeles St., L.A.

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A JOURNAL OF INTER-COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY

TURNING THE TIDE

Volume 28 ★ Number 5 ★ ISSN 1082-6491 ★ December 2015

FIGHT WHITE SUPREMACY & REACTIONARY VIOLENCE!

Resist Fascism Growing from Above & Below! Sunday, Dec. 13, 2-5pm, 5278 W. Pico Blvd., L.A. sponsored by ARA-LA

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★ Stop the Electoral Coup in Haiti!
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Fight White Supremacy and Reactionary Violence

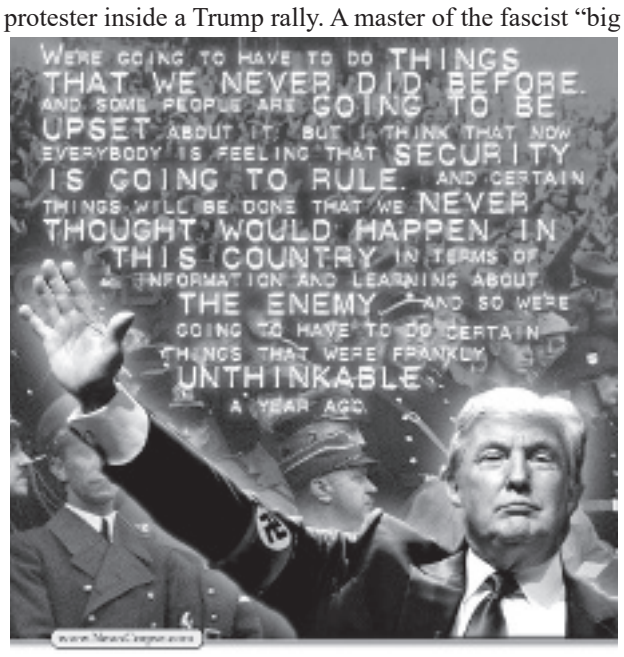
Resist Fascism Growing from Above and Below

"Fascism is built from above and below" has been a long-standing principle of the Anti-Racist Action Network. This is a reference to the fact that there are fascist elements within the US political and economic elite, as well as mass-based proto-fascist movements that seek to organize among petty bourgeois, working class and lumpen elements, sometimes professing an anti-establishment or even anti-capitalist ideology. It assumes there is a mutually reinforcing aspect to these two sometimes contradictory forces.

Recent developments underline how correct this perspective is. We have seen an upsurge in open white supremacist and reactionary violence against Black Lives Matter protesters, migrants and refugees, women's reproductive health providers, and trans women of color, among others. Masked white power advocates shot five

protesters demanding justice for a Black youth killed by Minneapolis police, outside that city's 4th Precinct. An opponent of a woman's right to choose opened fire outside a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs, killing one (a campus police officer) and wounding several others. A mosque in Toronto was the most recent target of an arson attack, after others in the US. A new armed militia has begun patrolling the US-Mexico border.

These "retail" fascist developments are clearly related to "mainstream" political attacks on Black Lives Matter, on Planned Parenthood, on Muslims and migrants, as well as to institutionalized political repression and racist police murders. "Populist" Donald Trump is campaigning to eject millions of undocumented Mexicano and other immigrants and any Syrian refugees, to require registration of all Muslims, and to defund Planned Parenthood, which he termed an "abortion factory." Trump publicly embraced followers who beat up a Latino after one of his rallies, and those who stomped and beat a Black Lives Matter protester inside a Trump rally. A master of the fascist "big



lie" technique, Trump claimed thousands of Muslims in NJ had celebrated the World Trade Center attack, and circulated white supremacist lies about the percentage of whites killed by Black people, and the percentage of Blacks killed by police. No wonder the Minneapolis white power shooters shouted "Race War! Trump 2016!" Similarly, the Colorado Springs shooter said, "No more baby parts" when arrested, a reference to a campaign of lies by corporate media and politicians.

But retail white supremacy and fascism is not limited to white power bonehead, nor is the use of reactionary patriarchal white nationalism limited to Donald Trump.

From mid- to late November, Facebook pages purporting to be from White Student Unions appeared at UCLA, Stanford, UC Davis, Princeton, U. of Missouri, UC Berkeley, CSU Fullerton, U of TN-Knoxville, Penn State, Florida International University, Ohio State, U of N. Carolina, U of TX-Austin, UC Santa Barbara, University of Minnesota, Occidental College, LSU, Michigan State, Washington State, U of Central Florida, N. Carolina State U, U of Cincinnati, U of Montana, Loyola U-Chicago, Rutgers, NYU, Portland State, U of Illinois, University of British Columbia, University of Western Ontario.

They reference each other, sometimes in self-contradictory ways. The UCLA group claimed to be inspired by Berkeley, UC Berkeley claimed to have been inspired by UCLA. Many seem to be strictly social media creations, and it's unclear how many have actual student members at the schools in question or have applied for recognition as student groups. But some have undertaken or proposed protests.

Here's the UCLA mission statement. They are claiming (elsewhere) to be "pro-white but not anti-black" and have clearly mastered the academic jargon: Similar language appears in many of the other WSU Facebook pages. "We welcome students who wish to construct a white identity, as well as all other students, to follow and contribute to the UCLA White Student Union. We unapologetically provide a creative space for white bodies to construct-deconstruct whiteness, to discuss and reflect upon the lessons laid down for us by our forefathers, and to develop a positive program to restore the pioneering will and greatness of European heritage while being mindful and respectful of other identities that whites and nonwhites alike espouse. We affirm the dignity and ancestry of our proud people who have gifted the world with countless works of beauty, science, and wisdom, and are **committed to promoting a dialogue and political resistance that will secure a future for our posterity and spirit. (Emphasis added.)**

Much of the language reads like a parody of post-

Anti-racist protesters march in Minneapolis.-IWW

modern academic jargon. But "committed to promoting a dialogue and political resistance that will secure a future for our posterity and spirit" is very close the to "14 words" slogan of David Lane of the Aryan underground group "The Order" who aimed to "secure a future for ourselves and our white children."

At least some of the groups appear to more than Internet trolls. In response to a series of "black-out" demonstrations at UC Santa Barbara and college campuses nationwide calling for "solidarity with Mizzou" Black students, the UCSB WSU decided to form its own antithetical "White Student Walk Out" calling for "solidarity" with white students. "Join us as we walk out of our classes at 12:30 PM to show solidarity for our brothers and sisters of European descent," the Walk Out event description reads. "We will march out (preferably chanting something inspiring on the way out) and meet outside of the UCSB MultiCultural Center where we will respectfully voice our complaints. We ask that only self-identified white students and @llies join us." The British Columbia WSU expressed solidarity with an event that took place at another campus. In Toronto, WSU posters were put up, promoting "Students for Western Civilization."

There was an earlier WSU at several CA campuses, associated with John Metzger, son of Tom Metzger, the former Klansman/Bircher who formed the White Aryan Resistance. The younger Metzger went on to form the WARSkins, trying to appeal to nazi boneheads; Greg Withrow, his main lieutenant, was found nailed to a cross by some of his fascist friends after he fell for a woman of color. The more recent WSU was launched by Matthew Heimbach at Towson State in Maryland, who organized a "white patrol" on campus. Heimbach has gone on to the Traditionalist Youth Network, which seems to have something of a base in Indiana and claims to have started a southern California chapter recently. The TYN has filed a number of "amicus" (friend of the court) briefs in federal lawsuits alleging Constitutional violations, and denouncing "cultural distorters" who want to claim Constitutional protection for "sodomy or pornography." They were represented by Kyle Bristow, a virulently anti-gay white nationalist attorney and former student leader of "Young Americans for Freedom."

Also active in southern CA is the "American Freedom Party," formerly called the A3P, American Third Position Party (Third Position is an ideological tendency first staked out in the US by Tom Metzger (resurrecting the classic Hitler claim to be anti-communist and anti-communist). Metzger condemned the left and the conservative right, claiming "race" as his ideology. The A3P was founded via an alliance between a group of nazi boneheads from Huntington Beach, CSU Long Beach professor Kevin McDonald, an open, virulent anti-semite, and William (AKA Daniel) Johnson, founder of the League of Pace Amendment Advocates, which advocated for a Constitutional amendment to define the US as an exclusively white nation, consider all other ethnic or racial groups to be aliens, and specifically to push for the "repatriation" of Black people to Africa.

The name change from A3P to American Freedom Party was not merely cosmetic -- it reflected an ideological shift, from a pseudo-revolutionary stance condemning capitalism and communism, to one geared more towards integrating with and winning over more traditional hard right and conservative political activists, such as in the Tea Party. And in general the era when some tried to make a case that fascism was an alternative revolutionary model opposed to capitalism and the status quo seems to be clearly over. In the US and Europe, fascist forces are basing themselves openly on xenophobia and racism once more.

In the US context of settler colonialism, it is critical to understand that fascist elements have always been part of the body politic and the political and economic structure. The methods of rule of colonialism - enslavement, genocide, naked repression - and the corporatist engagement of a mass base in an imperial, nationalist project, have always been present within the US because of the land theft and slavery at its base, and the cross-class nature of settler colonialism. In the current context of on-going economic crisis and inequality, climate catastrophes, and rampant militarism -- we can now clearly be seen to be in a "pre-war" period as US economic, diplomatic and military measures aim at an encirclement of Russia and China -- all these fascist elements, from above and below, are inevitably going to be unleashed. The white power shooters in Minneapolis were emulating the Minneapolis PD, which had already fired "less lethat" weapons at the protesters. The occasional firing or prosecution of a killer cop is still the exception that proves the rule of police impunity for racist murder; and the number of police killings is actually growing in response to country-wide protests.

There is a countervailing response among some white people. The larger response to Black campus protests against racism was solidarity, and groups like Showing Up for Racial Justice nationally and White People for Racial Justice in southern CA are an important expression of solidarity or "allyship" with Black Lives Matters and related movements and struggles against anti-Black racism in policing, education and other spheres. But it's important for such responses to be clear that effective solidarity will require splitting so-called "white society," and specifically opposing, exposing and counter-organizing against white nationalist and white supremacist elements. The fact that such white solidarity expressions have sprung up in the context of opposition to state violence and police abuse is a positive development. But it remains

vital for an anti-racist and anti-fascist movement to be consciously anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist, because white supremacist settler colonialism is the inescapable base not only of fascism, but of white privilege and of all the other oppressive and exploitive norms of this society. Defeating white supremacy, fascism and reaction requires overturning the colonial capitalist base of the economic, social and political order.

To hasten that day, and to preserve our movement as we build towards it, creating liberated spaces and contested zones where popular power exists within the interstices of the empire, it is imperative to develop our capacity for collective self-defense, so that the tactics of fear and intimidation from the state or fascists have no traction.

Communiques from Three US Political Prisoners from the Virgin Islands

The "Virgin Island Five" were a group of activists accused of murders in the US Virgin Islands that took place during a turbulent period of rebellion on the Islands. During the 1970's, a movement to resist colonial rule began to grow in the US-occupied Virgin Islands in the Caribbean. From 1971-73, a small scale rebellion was taking place. This was downplayed by the media, to avoid damage to the economically critical tourist industry.

On September 6, 1972, eight US tourists were shot dead at a Rockefeller-owned golf course on St. Croix. Colonial authorities picked up over 100 Black people for interrogation, and U.S. troops carried out a series of repressive acts of violence against the Black community. The FBI and US Army led a 300-man invasion force to conduct house to house searches of low-income areas.

The island was put under virtual martial law, and five men -- Ismail Ali, Warren (Aziz) Ballantine, Meral (Malik) Smith, Raphael (Kwesi) Joseph, and Beaumont Haneef Shabazz Bey -- were arrested and charged with the attack. They were all known supporters of Virgin Islands independence.

The five were charged after being subjected to torture to extract confessions. They were beaten, hung from their feet and necks, subjected to electric shocks with cattle prods, had plastic bags tied over their heads and water forced up their noses. US Judge Warren Young overseeing the case had worked as Rockefeller's private attorney and handled legal matters for the Fountain Valley Golf Course. The judge refused to throw out the "confessions," even after it was proven that they were obtained through torture.

The Five were then convicted in the "Fountain Valley" murder trial on August 13, 1973, and sentenced to eight consecutive life terms each. One of the jurors was the former wife of detective Jorge Torres, one of the arresting officers. Nine jurors testified later that they were threatened with FBI investigations on themselves and members of their families, and also threats of prosecution. The jury deliberated for nine days, and told the judge that they were "hopelessly deadlocked," yet he refused to dismiss them or call a mistrial, which worked to compel a guilty verdict. Four jurors, including the foreman, signed statements that they had been forced into a guilty verdict by the judge, police, and FBI. One juror, whose daughter had been charged with bank robbery several years before, was told that those charges could be brought up again if she didn't find the accused guilty. Even the Assistant DA and several police officers later testified that they knew the dependents had been tortured, and that the "confessions" extracted had been obtained by such methods.

Today, Warren (Aziz) Ballantine, Meral (Malik) Smith, and Hanif Shabazz Bey are all confined in federal prisons. Ismail Ali was liberated to Cuba via an airplane hijacking in 1984. Raphael (Kwesi) Joseph was granted a pardon by the V.I. governor in 1992. Six years later Kwesi was found dead of a poison-laced drug overdose, after it was said that he was about to reveal evidence that would have exonerated at least one or more defendant.

(Based on a report at http://www.abcf.net).

Dear Turning The Tide:

The following are communiques from the remaining three men who were part of the Five who were convicted in 1973 for involvement in the 1972 attack on the Rockefeller-owned Fountain Valley Golf Course, on the island of St. Croix, US V.I. (Virgin Islands). If possible, we would appreciate it if you would print it in your next quarterly. I would also like to express heartfelt appreciation for the consistency with which I have received a free issue of "Turning the Tide" for all these years:

From Beaumont (Haneef) Gereau-Bey, #930298:

In 1973, when my four co-defendants and I were sentenced under the guidelines of the V.I. sentencing law, the V.I. statutes stipulated that each of us were eligible to receive, and should have received, a parole hearing every 10 years.

However, in 43 years, none of us have ever received a parole hearing, so as to evaluate and monitor our rehabilitation. We are presently seeking legal assistance in our efforts to obtain hearings for early parole.

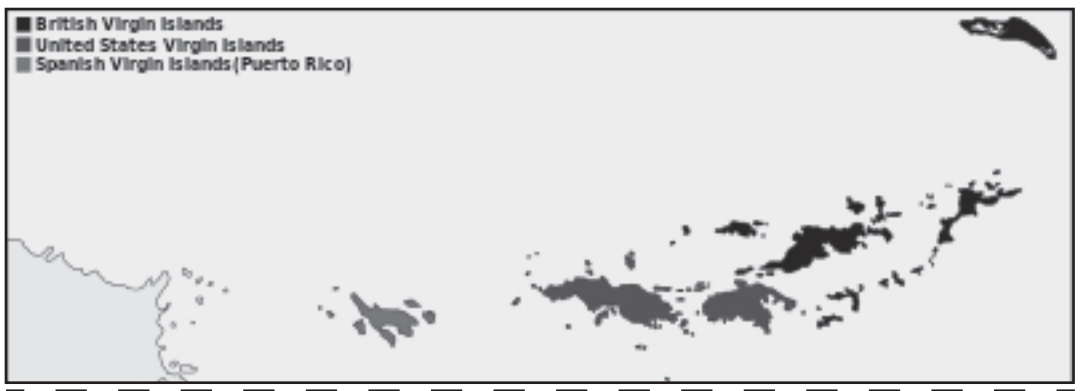
From Meral Smith (AKA Malik) #930363:

At the present time I have a case in the courts dealing with this issue, Meral Smith vs. Employees, BOC, Julius Wilson, Director. See: Smith v. Julius Wilson et al., Ct. Civ. No. 23/2013 (STX). I have presented several legitimate legal claims to the court, but the court has refused to address or decide those issues, so i need anyone's assistance in this matter. To be in prison for over 43 years without a parole hearing cannot be legal, when the law we were sentenced under says we are eligible for parole after serving 10 years of a life sentence, or a sentence of 30 years or more. See Title 5 V.I.C. s/s 4601 et seq. The time for our release is now.

From Abdul Azeez AKA Warren Ballantine #930257

In the name of Allah the most gracious, the most merciful, Peace be onto you. As for what follows, my name is Abdul Aziz AKA Warren Ballantine. The issue of parole is one I have been struggling with for almost 43 years. According to the Virgin Islands Code, under "parole eligibility" 4601, I was supposed to get a parole hearing at least four times in the past 40 years. The first one should have been in 1982, and every 10 years after that. At this present time I have not received my first hearing as of yet. When I was sentenced in 1973, nothing was stated that I have a life sentence without the possibility of parole. This is a serious violation and I am seeking assistance to get this situation straightened out.

You can write to all three with the names and numbers given, at Golden Grove Correctional Facility, Route 1, PO Box 9955, Kingshill, St. Croix, U.S. V. I. 00851



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A Call to Action On Puerto Rico

Dec. 12 Forum: Puerto Rico: Fightback Against Colonialism and the Neoliberal Agenda

Featuring:

Natasha Bannan,
President of the National Lawyers Guild
Mercedes Martinez, President, FMPR (Federacion de Maestros de Puerto Rico)
Nelson Denis,
Author of War Against All Puerto Ricans
Manuel Melendez,
A Call to Action on Puerto Rico
Angel Jaramillo, President of the UTIER
Ed Morales, New York City journalist, Newsday columnist and longtime Village Voice contributing writer.

While the hedge funders are demanding cutbacks so they can be paid, others are asking the U.S. Congress and President Obama to take action to reduce the debt and allow Puerto Rico to declare bankruptcy. Meanwhile others are organizing on their jobs and in their communities for a different vision of fighting the debt crisis and of Puerto Rico

A Call to Action on Puerto Rico has come together to educate and organize against Puerto Rico's colonial crisis and the destructive effects of the resulting debt crisis, especially on the poor and working people of Puerto Rico.

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I VISITED MUMIA ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27: A REPORT, AND WHAT'S NEXT

by Suzanne Ross

I just came back from visiting Mumia two days ago, and am witness to the fact that we have all experienced a miracle. Sisters and brothers, comrades, and friends, we are saving Mumia's life. He looked so healthy and radiant, so much like he used to, and he sounded so good. We both celebrated, again and again, his survival from the biggest threat to his life that he had yet experienced.

Mumia and many of us thought for sure, that he was going to die. Didn't he look like he was about to die? Remember those ghoulish frightening pictures with Mumia sitting in a wheelchair, looking like he could hardly hold up his head? THEY WERE TRYING TO KILL HIM AND ALMOST SUCCEEDED. But the power of our movement, and the thousands who called, wrote, demonstrated, and prayed for Mumia's life, defeated this monstrous enemy that wanted him dead, that wanted him destroyed before our very eyes. Mumia says that even when he was at his sickest, he could feel that love and energy of the people fighting for him and wanting him so badly to live. He says it gave him such strength.

No, Mumia is not cured. He still itches and still experiences pain, he's still in the infirmary where for about six months he has never gotten any fresh air or sunshine, he still needs to cover his body twice or three times a day with Vaseline and another cream to ease the itching, and he continues to need the palliative baths he takes two or three times a week. Plus, that itching could get worse again because the underlying problem of Hepatitis C has not been addressed.

Now having nearly succeeded in killing Mumia, these evil spokespeople and enforcers say that Mumia is not sick enough to receive the drug that's known to cure more than 90% of the people who have Hep C and follow the 60 or 90-day regimen. No, of course Mumia is not "sick enough", as the Department of Corrections (DOC) is claiming, for those who wanted him DEAD and nearly succeeded in killing him.

Remember, Mumia only got Hep C because the police tried to kill him in 1981 when they shot him in the lungs, and beat him mercilessly after he was shot and en route to the hospital. He need emergency surgery and blood transfusions. It was then that he was infected through those infusions.

Subsequently, while in prison on a death sentence, they tried to execute Mumia three times, once in 1994 but the peoples' struggle got Governor Casey not to sign the warrant. Then in 1995 and 1999 Governor Thomas Ridge signed two more death warrants and in both cases set an execution date. Ridge campaigned for office on a "Kill Mumia" platform. He subsequently became head of Homeland Security and now, in the post-Paris era, is a cheerleader for increased repression.

We finally got Mumia off Death Row in 2012, and that was a great defeat for them. They had to scramble for a new strategy. They tried keeping him in isolation. But we went straight to DOC headquarters with a sizable group and threatened to come back and fight this relentlessly. The next morning they put Mumia in general population.

Maureen Faulkner, mourning Mumia's release from Death Row, issued a thinly veiled invitation for other prisoners to "take care" of him. But Mumia's fellow prisoners love, respect, and protect him. He's received amazing support from those like Major Tillery who confronted the prison warden with a demand that Mumia get medical attention when he was very sick and still in general population, for which Tillery paid a high price: thrown into isolation and transferred to another prison. Others have shown care and love for Mumia throughout his sickness.

In 2014 the State resumed a deadly strategy. We don't know all the details. We can only guess what their evil plans were. We can only conclude that for almost a year they were again trying to execute Mumia, not by medical NEGLECT as has been said, but by medical MALEVOLENCE. Those of us who visited Mumia during his illness could hardly avoid noticing how much his skin looked as though it had been radiated. We remembered only too well that Puerto Rican Nationalist leader, Pedro Albizu Campos, was actually exposed to radiation while in prison for fighting for his people's independence, until he developed cancer and died.

Mumia developed a medically induced diabetes through the Department of Corrections' treatment for his skin problem. They gave him a medication that the minute he took it felt like his whole body, including his head, got blown up to the point that he felt he had to straighten his head as much as possible in order to be able to breathe. Through this same 'medical' malfeasance Mumia, who had never had diabetes before, suddenly had such a high blood sugar level that he was rushed to the hospital in a near-coma state. He almost died from a diabetes they induced but did not tell him he had until he was rushed to the hospital with a dangerously very high blood sugar level. The medical personnel at the infirmary had actually known of the high blood sugar weeks earlier when they did screening tests upon his admission but neither told him or his family of this threatening condition.

And now these very same perpetrators of attempted murder are saying Mumia is not sick enough to get this medication. Does he need to die before they will consider him 'sick enough'? Mumia is still not out of danger. He has Hepatitis C which could cause other symptoms to emerge, including the reemergence of the unbearable painful itching, or the increased damage to his liver, or some other development that they themselves could cause. Are we supposed to accept the Department of Corrections)saying that Mumia is not "sick enough" to get this drug, when Mumia's consulting doctor, Dr. Joseph Harris, has stated unequivocally that Mumia needs this treatment as soon as possible? We have consulted with dozens of other doctors who have agreed that Mumia should get this treatment right away. Even the American Liver Association has made it clear that this new medicine should be administered as soon as the illness is detected, in other words as soon as possible. Are we supposed to give the DOC another chance to kill our beloved and precious brother?

NO WAY! WE DEMAND TREATMENT NOW FOR MUMIA AND THE 10,000 OTHER PA PRISONERS WITH HEPATITIS C! We demand that the DOC recognize the basic human right, established internationally and even in the US, that those in state custody, in this case in prison, are entitled to the medical care they need. We will accept nothing less.

Join us in Scranton, Pennsylvania on Friday, December 18th!
TIME: 10 AM
WHERE: William J. Nealon Federal Building, 235 N. Washington Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503
For More Info In Phila: 215 724-1618
For More Info in NYC Especially Re Travel: Call 212 330-8029 ASAP www.freemumia.com

Our lawyers will be demanding that Mumia and the 10,000 other PA prisoners with this condition, get this treatment immediately. The DOC's argument that Mumia and the others have to be sicker to get this medicine goes against mainstream medical opinion today. The DOC, that nearly killed Mumia, can hardly be trusted to have Mumia's interests in mind when they argue, against all the other medical opinions we've heard, that Mumia should not get this treatment

Join us in telling the judge on Dec. 18 to rule in favor of Mumia and order the DOC to immediately provide the needed treatment to Mumia and the 10,000 other prisoners with Hepatitis C! U.S. Federal District Court Judge Robert Mariani has just ordered a full evidentiary hearing in federal court on the preliminary injunction we have submitted in Abu-Jamal v. Kerestes. This expanded hearing on December 18th (9:30 am in Scranton, PA) will take direct testimony, including Mumia's testimony. Mumia's lawyers are preparing cross examinations for the Department of Corrections witnesses including prison administrators and doctors. The judge also ordered the Department of Corrections to turn over critical discovery: Mumia's medical records.

This is it: prison officials and their doctors will be questioned and cross examined directly about why they are denying medically indicated treatment for Mumia's life-threatening Hepatitis C.

THE CHAIR

© 2015 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

To the young, the life of the elderly is as distant as another country. To the healthy, illness happens to other people.

It takes time and change to teach us that all of us are united on the wheel of life, and that, if we live long enough, we will all enter the House of the Elderly.

When I recently became ill, it was more a shock than even the symptoms themselves, for, after almost thirty years on Death Row, sickness only touched me briefly, able to be counted on one hand with several fingers remaining. In fact, it rarely lasted longer than a day.

Then it struck like thunder, helped along by improper drugs administered by prison doctors.

The resultant effects, the systemic weakness, left me nodding in a wheelchair, for I was simply unable to ambulate. And even though I'm no longer in the chair the experience taught me more than I ever wanted to know.

I cannot pass someone in a wheelchair, without at least nodding to them. For they are me.
I know, from bitter experience, that such chairs can be painful after hours of sitting.

Who knew?

Now, I know.

Illness, like aging, is part of the life cycle of the living.

We are all on The Wheel of Time, waiting our turn to learn something anew.

Send the brother some love and light:
Mumia Abu-Jamal #AM8335
SCI Mahanoy
301 Morea Rd.
Frackville PA 17932-0001

PART's Perspective:
Twenty-first Century Abolitionism

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/ People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***

There's a well-known saying that we stand on the shoulders of giants, a reference to the fact that if we can see farther or clearer, it's because of the resistance, the hard-fought gains, insights and accomplishments of our ancestors and antecedents. This is no less true for U.S. anti-racists and anti-imperialists of European descent than it is for those in the liberation movements of oppressed, exploited and colonized people inside this empire-state and around the world. To fulfill the dreams and complete the unfinished tasks of those who sacrificed greatly for us to come this far is a solemn responsibility and an uplifting possibility that requires our best efforts and deepest understanding of what remains to be done and how it can be accomplished.

Doing so requires us to sum up the experiences, the successes and failures of the movements that have come before us, so that we can learn from both the victories and the defeats that have brought us to this moment, its difficulties, challenges and prospects.

In the last several centuries, there have been a series of resistance and revolutionary movements that attempted first to block and then to overturn the development of the genocidal, ecocidal form of class society we know as capitalism.

Indigenous peoples of the Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania struggled to prevent the conquest of their lands and the destruction of their ways of life. Though they were overmatched by force of arms and technology, undercut by class and imperial contradictions within their own societies, and often betrayed by the selfish or weak-willed among their own number, that struggle has continued to this day in the face of the divide and conquer tactics of the imperialists and settlers. Their ongoing resistance helped preserve their cultures, and aspects of their pre-existing communal economic relations among people and their non-economic relationship to the land, right up to the present. And in the present, they are increasingly leading an environmental resistance, and building inter-communal solidarity and unity of indigenous peoples, in order to achieve international recognition of their rights and sovereignty. Their struggle for their own humanity and rights has been the principal basis of all anti-racist consciousness and activity.

Peasant and artisan workers in Europe where capitalism was able to implant itself and organize the totality of society based on the land, wealth and labor their rulers had stolen from the colonized, also resisted the resulting enclosures, privatization of the commons, alienation of labor, deforestation, commercialization of all human endeavors, and the creation of empire states. Their resistance, even as they were eventually transformed into the army of industrial labor as the dispossessed and proletarianized lower classes, continued to manifest itself as urban anti-capitalist struggles. It also has persevered as forms of tribal/ communal solidarity in the face of the centralizing and homogenizing tendencies and mapmaking of the imperial bourgeoisie. That new ruling class, far from liberating people from their previous chains or bondage, absorbed and raised to a higher level the exploitation carried out by the feudal nobility, the patriarchs, the clergy and other oppressors. Again, despite sellouts, betrayals, cooptation, and fascist repression, the embers of the struggle of those dispossessed continue to burn, transforming the maps that 500+ years of empire building within Europe itself could not make permanent, and fighting back against the wars, economic immiseration and dehumanization that Capital's system of empire requires. We see this in Greece and Portugal, in Scotland, Ireland, Catalonia and the Basque country.

In the last two-plus centuries, there have been three major struggles, embracing the greater part of humanity, that have challenged the racism and white supremacy, based on genocide and land theft, which form the taproot of the global system of capitalist empire that rules and shapes the world. Each of those struggles registered gains, at an enormous cost in lives, but each fell short of completing their task. The changes they wrought were ultimately rationalized and re-incorporated into the system of capital and empire.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, abolitionism, based first of all on the struggle of the enslaved themselves to win their freedom, galvanized and changed the world, through insurgencies, revolts, wars and popular movements -- particularly through resistance within Africa, the Haitian revolution, later the Mexican and Bolivarian struggles for independence, and the slaves' general strike and response to the call to arms that turned the tide of the US Civil War. These struggles forced the empire to recognize the humanity of millions of Africans and African-descent people and then eradicated the legal, economic and social system based on treating human beings as property. Since those enslaved humans, and the land they worked, had been the pre-eminent and generative form of capital, this was an enormous blow against the power of capital and for liberation. But capital was able to recoup its losses and reassert its control through industrialism, extractivism and their attendant technological breakthroughs, harnessing mechanical, chemical (and eventually nuclear) energy to unleash greater human productivity (and destructiveness) -- meaning greater exploitation and profit, accumulating and privatizing unprecedented levels of wealth.

Similarly, in the 19th and 20th centuries, the anti-colonial struggle and the anti-fascist struggle were the cutting edge of anti-capitalism, striking at the heart of the absorptive and repressive powers of the empire to neutralize and incorporate working class struggles and to increase the still greater accumulation of wealth in private hands. Anti-fascism toppled the "thousand year Reich" of the Aryans and the militarist dictatorship in Japan, and anti-colonialism broke the chains of direct imperial rule by many of the European powers over Africa and Asia. But the role of settler colonial capitalist societies, particularly the US, and to a lesser extent, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and some of the Latin American states, allowed imperial capital to impose neo-colonial systems, incorporating both "comprador" elites in newly independent countries, even those that fought protracted popular wars for national liberation, while simultaneously blunting the revolutionary impulse of working people in the imperial core, and reversing the distorted revolutionary anti-capitalist gains that had been made in the "weak links" of the imperial system. Japan and Germany were quickly reintegrated in the US-led postwar system to contain Soviet Russia and Red China. The US CIA swiftly incorporated nazi scientists and spies into the national security state and military-industrial complex.

Proxy wars and domestic and international counter-insurgency and cooptation efforts also overturned or compromised national liberation struggles, perhaps best exemplified by the transformation of the ANC in South Africa from a spearpoint of global struggle against white supremacy and apatheid settler colonialism into a governing party that has comfortably accommodated itself to so-called neo-liberalism, enriching its leadership while the masses of Black South Africans remain exploited and repressed. Nonetheless, anti-colonialism and anti-fascism still remain a threat to imperial rule and a base of resistance among oppressed and exploited people.

The consequences of the failure of the partial efforts of abolitionists, anti-fascists and decolonizers in the past centuries have now become manifest in new genocides and new, potentially irreversible transformations of the entire planetary climatology and ecology. It behooves us to learn quickly how to extract the revolutionary kernel of abolitionism, anti-fascism and decolonization, while overcoming the weaknesses and inadequacies of those approaches that led to their being only partial solutions, and therefore ultimately being reintegrated into the rulers' system.

The great strength of these efforts was the manifest justice of their causes, the respect for human rights, equality and what theorists refer to as "agency," the power of the oppressed and exploited to struggle for their own liberation, and in the process, make history and remake the world. But there are several weaknesses which, standing on their shoulders and with the benefit of hindsight and the passage of time, we can now see more clearly.

First, although all three in fact tackled some of the roots of capital and capitalism, they were not in fact or in retrospect sufficiently anti-capitalist. They did not set themselves the goal of eliminating root and branch the rule of the owning class of the private market system that measures all value by the yardstick of private profit. They did not fully understand the enmity that existed with their oppressors and exploiters, and the irreconcilable nature of the contradiction with that enemy.

Second, and this is particularly though not exclusively true for the abolitionists, anti-fascists and opponents of colonialism of European descent, they were not sufficiently self-critical, leaving themselves vulnerable to the internalization of the values and culture of the oppressors and exploiters -- based in part on material complicity -- that weakened their movements and strengthened the hand of the empire of capital and its agents. They did not fully understand the material basis of white supremacy and capital itself in the privatization of land.

Third, for the most part, the most radical and foresighted within those movements were not capable of uniting around themselves all who could be united for the cause of thoroughgoing and complete social, political and economic transformation. The course of history -- and this is especially true of the recent past in the Western countries -- is replete with movements that focused on their own differences and divisions to the point that they did the work of the state and the oppressors for them, dividing themselves so that they could be more easily conquered. Infiltration and state stratagems alone cannot account for the divisions between the autonomists and the anti-imperialists in West Germany, between the South Koreans who focused on opposing dictatorship and those who focused on opposing US occupation and division of Korea, between factions within the Black Panther Party or between the Panthers and other revolutionary sectors of the Black freedom struggle such as the League of Revolutionary Black Workers.

Fourth and finally, they did not sufficiently integrate into their struggle all the weapons at their command to purge themselves of the identification with the oppressor, to generate the unity and solidarity of all

oppressed people, and to internalize and express the values of the world they were trying to build -- the spiritual, psychological, economic, social, political and military struggles that history has taught us are necessary.

To overcome these weaknesses, which are certainly still manifesting themselves in struggles today, is of vital importance, and explains why self-criticism is one of the most powerful weapons in the hands of the oppressed. We need an expressly anti-capitalist movement, not simply because it is the logic of capitalism at the root of many of the problems we confront, from gentrification/ displacement, mass incarceration and the school-to-prison pipeline, to the militarization of schools, police and the borders, etc. We must be anti-capitalist because capital and the capitalists are using every means at their disposal to destroy or neutralize us; they understand more clearly than we do that it is Us or Them, life or death. Their survival as a ruling class depends on the liquidation of the threat we pose; and the opposite is also true - our survival and the success of our struggle for liberation in harmony with the biosphere depends on eliminating the threat they pose. On that basis, it matters little whether

See: Abolitionism, continued on next page...

...21st Century Abolitionism,
continued from previous page .

we are struggling against gentrification and displacement, or privatization and austerity, mass incarceration or war; whether we are struggling for housing, water, or education as a human right, for migrant rights or peace -- as long as we understand that we will be struggling against the same system in its totality, in a fight to the finish.

Our movement, particularly (but not exclusively) among European-descent anti-racists, must be a self-critical movement. We must be engaged NOW, not "after the revolution," in the process of personal and collective transformation, so that we internalize and practice the values of solidarity, self-determination and

uncompromising resistance and self-sacrifice that are necessary if we are to win. We must embrace the spirit of what the Puerto Rican Socialist League referred to as "retramiento," to cease identifying with our own oppressor or collaborating in our own oppression.

Our movements must overcome the differences and disunity that arise from privilege, internalized oppression, elitism, nationalism, egotism, racism, sexism, or religious and political sectarianism. We must avoid the elevation of contradictions among the people to zero-sum "two-line struggles" where both lines are wrong. In particular, we must understand that in relationship to the various forms of struggle against a common enemy, it is not "either-or," but "both-and," as long as we understand that we are dealing with an implacable enemy, for whom any compromise is always only tactical and designed to undermine us and the cause of humanity and a sustainable human existence in harmony with the eco-system and the laws of nature. There is a necessary place within our struggle for all forms of resistance -- cultural resistance, psychological and spiritual resistance, and economic, physical and martial resistance.

To advance, we must embrace the power manifested by the anti-colonial, anti-fascist and abolitionist movements in their day to define the central struggles and moral and political imperatives of their times, and do the same for our time. We need a 21st Century abolitionism -- to abolish not only the prison-industrial complex and the system of mass incarceration, but to abolish the police and the system of wage-slavery and private accumulation of land and wealth that they protect and defend; to abolish imperial war and the empire-state with its militarily-imposed borders and boundaries; to abolish patriarchy and the binary gender system; to abolish all forms of colonialism, white supremacy and racism, and especially settler colonialism; to abolish extractivism and the pillaging and despoiling of the planet. Setting the terms in this way will in itself begin to manifest the generative, creative and transformative power of the people, and thereby begin to change the balance of forces and balance of power between the great majority of the indigenous, the workers, the wretched of the earth on one hand, and the small minority of exploiters and oppressors, the enslavers, colonizers and fascists on the other.

Hasta la victoria siempre!

On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide & ARA-LA

You can find archives of ***Turning the Tide*** at **www.antiracist.org** that go back more than seven years, plus back issues of the ***Black Rider African Intercommunal News Service***. In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as facebook.com/tideturning, and facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity. Y ou can follow @ara_losangeles on Twitter, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at ara-la.tumblr.com.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES MOVES TO CRUSH THE ACTIVIST ECHO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

by Kwazi Nkrumah

Over the past few months, I have been posting information about the struggle for genuine community empowerment here in Echo Park. The long and short of it is that myself and other community activists who represent historically underrepresented communities won the elections to the neighborhood council in Echo Park 18 months ago --- by a landslide. Ever since then, we have been under non-stop attack by elements that have moved into the Echo Park area on the wave of gentrification in recent years, certain forces in the City bureaucracies, politically conservative elements active within the City-Wide Neighborhood Council system itself, and even the office of Councilman Mitch O'Farrel -- who many of us voted for, thinking that he would be a progressive advocate for the people in this community. Instead, he has proved to be yet another politician who speaks out of both sides of his mouth, but is basically in the pockets of business interests and "developers" versus working-class people, the homeless and those being targeted for mass displacement when push comes to shove. In my opinion, some of his staff have displayed blatantly racist attitudes against our board majority and individual members of this board. A week after confronting one of his staff members about this at our last Board meeting, our board was served notice by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) that they are moving to take us over, shut us down, and silence us. In short, they are attempting to decertify us.

Neighborhood Councils were supposedly formed to ensure that community people have a more direct voice in the political process in this city. They are elected, and they are given extraordinary access to both elected officials and the various agencies responsible for delivering public services to their areas. There are currently close to 100 Neighborhood Councils located throughout the City of Los Angeles. As we move to empower those most in need of having a voice in the decisions and delivery of services in our communities, the question of neighborhood councils, their role and function inevitably comes to the fore. There are many forces who do not want grassroots community people actually "intruding" into the discussions about local governance and public policy. In fact, they would like the neighborhood councils to act as rubber stamps for their own particular agendas and interests.

Help us to resist that orientation. Help us to fight for genuine community empowerment!

I will be posting a series of letters, statements and articles here on our struggle to stop the City from shutting down the Echo Park Neighborhood Council. I call on ALL of my friends who believe in popular democracy and who believe in the struggle for justice for and in our communities to join with me and other community activists here in Echo Park and around the City who are fighting to end the political manipulation of our neighborhood councils by politicians, City bureaucrats and vested economic interests. Help us to build genuine community power at the base throughout the City of Los Angeles.

--- Kwazi Nkrumah,
President-Under-Constant-Attack,
Echo Park Neighborhood Council; Co-Chair, Martin Luther King Coalition of Greater Los Angeles, Co-Founder, Occupy the Hood.

SPECIAL MOBILIZATION ALERT FROM ECHO PARK UNITES:

Please join us Tuesday evening to protest the illegal shutdown and manipulation of the Echo Park Neighborhood Council by the so-called Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the City Attorney's office

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015 6:00 -- 9:30 P.M.
LOCATION: WESTMINSTER AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
1010 ABBOT KINNEY BLVD
VENICE, CA 90291

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (The Commission) was established by the City Charter in 1999 as a policy-setting and oversight commission for the Neighborhood Councils and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.
The Commission is comprised of 7 Commissioners appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council to 5 year terms. The Commission holds regular public meetings the 1st Tuesday and 3rd Monday of each month and may also hold special meetings to conduct business. All such meetings are open to the public.

HANDS OFF THE ECHO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL!

RESPECT THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS AND THEIR STAKEHOLDERS!

END CORRUPT POLITICAL MANIPULATIONS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SYSTEM BY POLITICIANS AND CITY BUREAUCRATS!
--- ECHO PARK UNITES!

#BLACKXMAS

by Melina Abdullah, Black Lives Matter LA
https://www.facebook.com/groups/blacklivesmatterla/

Folks are asking why we are calling for a #BlackXmas, one where we withhold our dollars from White corporations and use them for Black empowerment. Here's why...

We are oppressed by a system of White supremacist patriarchal heteronormative capitalism that, in its most extreme form, sponsors and sanctions the murder of Black people at the hands of the state. Racism, sexism, heterosexism, and capitalism are interlocking, interdependent forms of oppression. Corporations like Walmart, Dell, Home Depot, Koch Industries, and Whole Foods, just to name a few, are directly responsible for defunding public resources that benefit Black communities in favor of corporate welfare and the rise of the police state.

The consumerism that is embedded in corporate Christmas ...you know, the one that has folks scurrying around trying to figure out what to buy people who already have too much... is part of the capitalist indoctrination that has us financing our own oppression. It is a capitalist sham. In short, it is not just the police, but the corporations that they "protect and serve" that are our enemies.

We're calling for a Black Xmas where we intentionally use our resources to support organizations like Black Lives Matter, BYP 100, and Los Angeles Community Action Network, where we resist the urge to pollute the Earth by purchasing items that we don't need and trash landfills, buying only what we need from Black independent businesses. That's why.

And it's part of a calculation that will ensure our victory in this long and beautiful struggle towards justice and liberation. □
#LetsGetFree

PALESTINIAN YOUTH REVOLT: ANY ROLE FOR POLITICAL PARTIES?

by Jamal Juma', Jamil Hilal, Nijmeh Ali, Khalil Shaheen, Jaber Suleiman, Mjriam Abu Samra, Belal Shobaki, Alaa Tartir [excerpts]
https://al-shabaka.org/roundtables/palestinian-youth-revolt-any-role-for-political-parties/

Overview

The absence of authentic Palestinian national leadership is particularly acute at this time of crisis. The current youth uprising against Israel's prolonged military occupation and denial of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT) and within Israel is generally acknowledged to be largely leaderless.

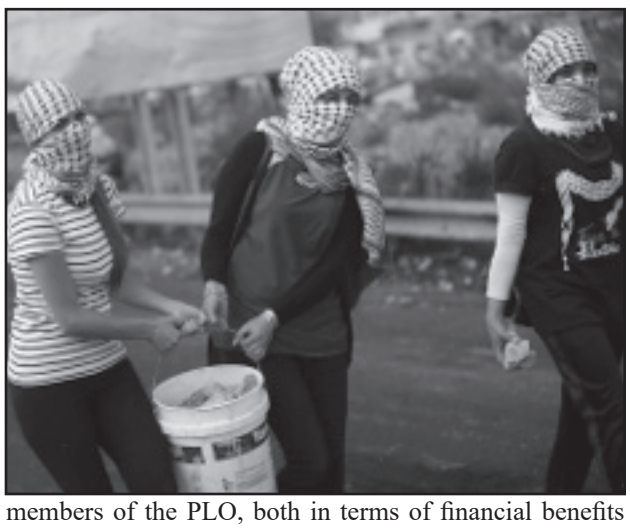
What role is there for political parties to contribute to the youth uprising, given that they remain entrenched in the Palestinian body politic despite their splits and weaknesses? What other avenues could provide a space for national – or local - leadership to emerge at such times of crisis, and beyond?

There are some common strands in the Al-Shabaka policy analysts' diagnosis of the situation, but their ideas for future action divide into two broad clusters: Those who suggest alternatives beyond the current political set-up and those who look for ways to make the current structure work. Jamal Juma' calls for serious investment in rebuilding the political space in order to support the uprising, including strengthened homeland-Diaspora ties. Jamil Hilal argues that one way forward is by building on and linking local, democratically constituted committees as the basis for a revived national movement. Nijmeh Ali does not see a new alternative framework but rather calls for a change of behaviors within the existing system. Khalil Shaheen also believes there is still room in this transitional phase for the traditional party system - as compromised as it is.

Jaber Suleiman points out that the youth wave of anger is as much against the PA, but that there is no option but to find ways to collaborate in order to sustain the momentum. Mjiriam Abu Samra concludes that it is the youth themselves who will ultimately radically reform Palestinian politics. Belal Shobaki notes that the fact that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Islamic Jihad can still bring out the numbers could serve as a way to harness traditional parties to the new wave. Alaa Tartir argues that confrontation at all levels and different spheres needs to become a way of life until freedom is realized.

Jamal Juma':
Vision, Clear Objectives, Multi-Level Relationships

For nearly two months, Palestinians have waited for the political parties to shoulder their role in leading and guiding the uprising. Clearly, they are neither able nor willing to do so. For one thing, party leaders are reluctant to pay the price of leading and framing popular resistance. Nor do they want to lose the privileges they enjoy as



members of the PLO, both in terms of financial benefits and political status.

Moreover, the various parties can't act without the consent of the Palestinian Authority (PA) security apparatus. Pres. Mahmoud Abbas, who holds the power, believes the uprising has accomplished its mission by refocusing attention on the Palestinian cause and is betting on new initiatives to resume negotiations with Israel. Abbas has announced that he does not want an uprising.

As for the Islamic forces, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, they've taken the same position of inaction. They too don't want to pay the price and give Israel an opportunity to launch an offensive against the Gaza Strip.

There are several factors in favor of creating a space for a new national or local leadership. Even if it subsides, the current uprising has legitimized the search for alternatives [to the current leadership]. It has also united the Palestinian people inside the Green Line, the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza. Ironically, the political forces are the ones who remain divided. The Palestinians in the Diaspora have also acted albeit in a limited way, and have helped to organize demonstrations. The actions on the ground are seeding an emerging leadership that can be nurtured, although it is scattered and localized.

The challenge is to build on the positive and minimize the negative: Note that any serious movement to create

an alternative leadership would have to work below the radar to some extent. [We need] a space safe from political domination, in which it would be possible to support popular forces that have a vision and capacity to mobilize, such as trade unions, farmers' organizations, women's federations, and of course youth groups, so they can work alongside the uprising. It's vital to invest in coordination between the homeland and the Diaspora, rebuild trust between us and revive our self-confidence in our ability to affect change. We must have faith in our people and in their ability to sacrifice and advance.

Mjiriam Abu Samra:
Palestinian Youth Will One Day Redefine Palestinian Politics

Why the haven't political parties been able to catalyze current youth frustration? Primarily the shift in PLO discourse and strategy from a liberation struggle to state-building. Neo-colonial normalization with the occupier replaced the anti-colonial framework that shaped the struggle. The national movement was paralyzed in its capacity for grassroots mobilization. The crisis between Hamas and Fatah is one demonstration of the complex colonial condition imposed on Palestinians and the inability of Palestinian parties to give priority to the will of their people. The neoliberal project ushered in by Oslo has affected all Palestinian parties to degrees and made them unable to give expression to the popular will.

We're unlikely to see a significant role for the parties in the uprising - unless they restore anti-colonial political vision and discourse. Such a radical shift could mean extinction of the ruling class and dismantling the apparatus of economic and political interests in the OPT. This is a risk the Palestinian leadership seems unwilling to take.

Solid leadership to the spontaneous movements needs to reposition liberation and justice at the core of the struggle. It's more likely that Palestinian youth will eventually play a role in a radical re-definition of Palestinian politics than that the historical parties will make a genuine contribution.

Pay attention to efforts coming from Palestinian youth in the Diaspora (shatat) and in historical Palestine, providing a solid political framework to the current uprising and, in general, to Palestinian discontent. It's too early to assess the potential of these initiatives, yet it's important to highlight the radical discourse they're endorsing. [We must] recognize the effort to re-unify the political message of all constituencies of Palestinian society: under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza, in "48 Palestine" and in the Diaspora. See, for example, the transnational mobilization called by Palestinian youth from all over the world on Nov 29, which the United Nations marks as the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Belal Shobaki:
Turn to the Political Parties Who Can Still Mobilize

The current popular movement makes it urgent for the parties to transcend partisan interests and contribute to civil and social activism. Fatah and Hamas have to move

beyond their preoccupation with managing the PA and act in a way that befits their identity as liberation movements under occupation. All factions should join ranks in drafting a national agenda that transcends Oslo and the institutional structure incapacitating the Palestinian struggle. They can use their media to rebuild a culture that nurtures the uprising rather than partisan polarization. This would entail a change in Palestinians' comfortable consumption habits, especially in the West Bank.

Such a movement should look beyond Fatah and Hamas. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Islamic Jihad could mobilize strong rallies and demonstrations against the occupation. Both enjoy the respect of the Palestinian people. Both could work with others to support open confrontation with the Israeli occupation and lead a call for the formation of coordinating committees to manage the uprising. These committees should evolve into a joint leadership that becomes a part of the PLO as part of a program to reform the organization.

However, [this] is contingent on overcoming the experience of the Oslo formula for a two-state solution. The actors currently monopolizing Palestinian political institutions are the ones who still back this formula. If the public turns the uprising into a rejection of Oslo, in addition to confronting the occupation, new leaders will

emerge or the current leaders will feel compelled to change their rhetoric and political behavior.

Alaa Tartir:
The Politics of Confrontation

Who will protect and build on the Palestinian wave of anger currently raging in the OPT, and how? The continued sacrifices of the Palestinian people should not be exploited by the traditional Palestinian political elite - yet again - in some new round of ill-fated negotiations.

The traditional leadership's inability to realize Palestinian aspirations has created an opportunity for non-traditional leaders, including Palestinian civil society actors and opponents of the PA. A transformation of leadership is needed. It will need time, resources, and political determination as well as mass mobilization at key moments. The alternative is taking shape, but is still young like the youth in revolt. Without the necessary support and mechanisms to coordinate efforts, the movement will quickly die out.

Non-traditional Palestinian leaders should pool their efforts in creating a strategy for struggle that generates rather than draining the wave's potential and energies. This is the only way to avoid another disappointment that increases the existing frustration and disorientation. Moments of historic transformation are never easy. This will involve cycles of confrontation on many different fronts.

The confrontation shouldn't be limited to physical standoffs at military checkpoints but extend to political, economic and other spheres. Confrontation of colonization is the only way to change the balance of power equations, challenge the facts on the ground and built a path to the future.

The current movements by the youth and by non-traditional leaders embody the politics of confrontation: They use collective action to challenge the authorities and their claims of representation. However, we need to move from the current state of anger to a movement that represents the Palestinian society as a whole, transforming it into a society grounded in social movements and horizontal networks. [We must] build on existing social networks to promote collective goals, work for liberation from colonization and defy repressive authorities and elites. This can transform the current wave of anger into a permanent state of confrontation with the colonizer as well as a sustainable social movement that brings the colonized closer to freedom and self-determination.

See full forum at: https://al-shabaka.org/roundtables/palestinian-youth-revolt-any-role-for-political-parties/

STOP THE ELECTORAL COUP IN HAITI

STOP TERROR AGAINST THOSE WHO FIGHT FOR THEIR VOTE TO BE COUNTED

by Global Women's Strike/LA <la@allwomencount.net>

Haitian lives count. Count Haitian votes. Annul Haiti's stolen election. Stop repressing those demanding electoral transparency.

Despite polling data, human rights organizations, media and eyewitness reports of massive fraud in the October 25th Haitian Presidential and Legislative election, the US has refused to condemn the election. And on November 24th Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) declared that a functionary of current President Michel Martelly's PHTK Party, Jovenel Moise, along with Jude Celestin, were the top vote getters. The CEP has scheduled a run-off election for December 27.

Haitians have taken to the streets in the tens of thousands to denounce the election as a fraud and an assault on democracy. SEE VIDEO. They are asking for international support for their demands including: no to an electoral coup; invalidation of the Oct 25th election and for new and transparent elections to be called. Additionally, Fanmi Lavalas, the party of the popular former-President of Haiti Jean Bertrand Aristide, has formally contested the vote and intends to bring a claim against Haiti's Electoral Council before the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Tell US officials that Haiti's stolen election must be declared invalid and new elections held, and that shooting and other repression against Haitians who demand transparency in their election must be stopped.

Contact Kenneth Merten,
Office of the Haiti Special Coordinator
Phone: 202-647-9510, Fax: 202-647-8900
Email: HaitiSpecialCoordinator@state.gov
Tweet to @JohnKerry
Contact the White House at 202-456-1111
Call your Representatives and Senators: 202-224-3121
Contact the Congressional Black Caucus 202-226-9776.

Violence Against Protesters

With little or no coverage in the mainstream US media, there is now a terror campaign directed against those calling for democracy in Haiti. Supporters of opposition parties have been shot and killed, and police have attacked demonstrators with tear gas, batons, and live and rubber bullets. In one incident, caught on camera, a unit of the Haitian police called BRI attacked two young men in Rue des Remparts, Port-au-Prince. Here is the link to a graphic and very upsetting video of this crime. https://www.facebook.com/Kodinasyon-Depatmantal-Lwes-Fanmi-Lavalas-1421526351403611/

In Delmas 2, Port-au-Prince, a pickup truck was found with officially certified voting station tally results. Suspecting fraud, marchers surrounded the truck until a justice of the peace could arrive. Instead of being praised for performing their civic duty, they were attacked by police with tear gas, batons, and gunfire.

Background:

Presidential candidate Dr. Maryse Narcisse of Fanmi Lavalas demanded the right to review the tally sheets. The CEP sent the matter to the National Electoral Office of Contestations (NEOC) who selected a sample of Tally Sheets.

The Executive Director of the National Human Rights Defence Network confirmed that irregularities in 98% of the Tally Sheets under review reflected massive acts of fraud aimed at changing the results of the elections and that the beneficiary of the fraudulent Tally Sheets was the candidate of Haiti's outgoing President Martelly.

Haiti's Electoral Decree provides for the expulsion from the race of any candidate who benefits from a finding of fraud, yet the Electoral Council refused to disqualify the government candidate (Jovenel Moise).

The CEP recognized that fraud and irregularities were discovered in a random sampling of Tally Sheets but determined further investigation was not warranted and moved ahead to confirm the election result.

CARICOM observers reported, among other things, "intimidation ... too many anomalies", and that "the secrecy of the ballot was compromised." They have called for "more transparency in the processing of the Tally Sheets".

Legislative first round elections held on August 9th were plagued by fraud and violence with more that 20% of the ballots lost. See http://www.cepr.net/blogs/haiti-relief-and-reconstruction-watch/local-observers-document-massive-fraud-intimidation-and-violence-in-haiti-election

Despite the violence and fraud, the August 9th election was sanctioned by the US, the UN occupying forces, and the Organization of American States (OAS).

On October 5, Congresswoman Maxine Waters wrote to US Secretary of State John Kerry, expressing deep concern about Haiti's 2015 elections, in which she stated that "many are calling for the resignation of the current CEP and the annulment of the entire first round." https://waters.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/congresswoman-waters-urges-secretary-kerry-support-free-fair-and

Haitians have protested continually against government repression and corruption, and for free and fair elections. It's only because of their pressure that the recent elections took place. They're now fighting for their votes to be honored. Haitian lives count. Count Haitian votes.

64,000 Missing Women in America All Have One Important Thing in Common: They're Black

By Zak Cheney-Rice
http://mic.com/articles/93780/64-000-missing-women-in-america-all-have-one-important-thing-in-common

On Dec. 18, 2011, Phoenix Coldon drove her 1998 Chevy Blazer out of her family driveway in St. Louis County, Mo., at 3 p.m. Three hours later, the vehicle was found at an intersection 25 minutes away in East St. Louis. The driver's door was open, the car was empty and the engine was still running. Phoenix was 23 years old. She hasn't been seen or heard from since.

The Coldons commemorated their daughter's 26th birthday on May 23, a bittersweet moment considering the circumstances. But her disappearance represents a much larger problem: As of today, more than 64,000 black women remain missing across the US.

Background: The Daily Mail explored this phenomenon in early 2012, and recently reposted their story to draw new attention to the issue. The statistics, in addition to others published by the FBI and the nonprofit Black and Missing Foundation, paint a grim picture of race and disappearance in America. http://www.blackandmissinginc.com/cdad/index.cfm

The numbers: Despite representing only 12.85% of the population, Blacks in the US accounted for nearly 226,000 — or 34% — of all missing persons reported in 2012. According to the FBI's National Crime Information Center, the comparison with other racial groups is unfavorable: Whites and Hispanics are a combined 80.1% of the population, but account for only 60% of missing persons.

This is especially troubling when you break down the numbers by age. Black and Missing reports that 37% of missing minors and 28.2% of missing adults in 2013 were black. No fewer than 270,000 minorities have gone missing since 2010, 135,000 of whom were black and 64,000 were black women, according to the Atlanta Black Star.

It gets worse: The reasons for these disappearances vary, and cannot all be attributed to foul play. But a telling pattern emerges in how they're documented by the media, with critics citing a stark racial divide in news coverage of such incidents.

Essence points to a 2010 report titled "Missing Children in National News Coverage," which found that while black children accounted for 33.2% of missing children that year, the media exposure rate was an unimpressive 19.5%. While black men go missing at statistically higher rates, coverage of black female disappearances is particularly telling in light of the attention similar stories get when white women are involved.

"If you Google 'Natalee Holloway,' how many impressions would you get?" Black and Missing cofounder Natalie Wilson told ABC News last year. "If you Google 'Unique Harris,' who's missing from D.C., the story is not the same."

She added, "We cannot wait until the news cycle. We have to get this information out right away. Our people deserve to be found. We deserve awareness so that their families can get closure."

The reasons: Natalie and her sister Derrica Wilson started the Black and Missing Foundation in 2008 specifically to raise awareness and provide resources, advocacy and pressure around this issue. Derrica has a background in law enforcement. Among the reasons she cites for disproportionate black disappearance figures are poor training and dismissive attitudes.

"I spent six months at the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy in Ashburn, Va., where we had only two hours of training on missing persons cases," she told Essence. "In the field, I've seen a majority of black missing children classified as runaways, who don't get Amber Alerts."

Plus: "For black adults, police usually link their disappearances to criminal activity, so they aren't valued as much. Training needs to be enhanced so police forces know how to handle these cases."

Natalie told the Daily Mail that lack of newsroom diversity also skews the way black missing persons are covered by the media. And while the plight of missing black women has received more coverage of late (albeit notably through international cases, like the 276 Nigerian girls kidnapped by Boko Haram in April), it's still not nearly at a conscionable level.

So many remain missing: The families of girls and women like Relisha Rudd, Kamira Baxter, Cerra Lapsley, Makayla Randall and many others still anguish over their missing loved ones. Phoenix Coldon's family has spent their entire life savings and countless hours searching, posting flyers, distributing mailers, maintaining a Facebook page and appearing on TV and radio shows in a relentless effort to find their daughter.

"Some people say that they are impressed with our efforts to find Phoenix," mother Goldia Coldon told the Huffington Post. "But I feel that we have not done enough ... I don't know what else to do."

As the numbers clearly indicate, the Coldons are not alone. And so the search continues. For more information or to donate to the Home for the Holidays campaign:

http://www.blackandmissinginc.com/cdad/

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Top row: C. Anderson, write-in K.Barnes, L. Brazon, J. Cho, M. Corral. R. Elizondo, A. Gladney, N. Lawrence, R. Macias.
Bottom: B. Medina, D. Medina, write-in J. Neff, M. Novick. R. Pour, S. Pour, L. Reyes, A. Sochaczewski, R. Spriestersbach
Staff candidates (not pictured): J. Benavides, T. Grewall, Sis. C. Muhammad, Fernando Velazquez.

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- ★ Jan. 14, National Day of Action to Free Herman Bell, www.FreeHermanBell.org
- ★ Jan. 24, 1p, KPFK Local Board seated, officer & director elections Peace Ctr.
- ★ Feb. 6, Political/Cultural Event to Free Leonard Peltier, TBA 323-636-7388
- ★ 100X100 Fundraising Campaign for TTT gofundme.com/eugzgg
- ★ Feb. 13, 8p, Valentines Eve Dance Party Benefit for TTT, Peace Center
- ★ Feb. 19-21, NCOR 2016, Chapel Hill NC http://nationalconferenceonorganizedresistance.org/

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A JOURNAL OF INTER-COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY

TURNING THE TIDE

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ABOLISH THE POLICE
ABOLISH THE PRISONS

ABOLISH WAGE SLAVERY

SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST RACIST MURDER IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT!

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★ 100X100 Campaign
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End Prison Slavery in Texas Now!

By Keith 'Malik' Washington, Deputy Chairman, New Afrikan Black Panther Party (Prison Chapter), Texas Region

Usually when people are sad, they don't do anything but cry over their condition. But when they get mad, they bring about change. – *Malcolm X*

Revolutionary Greetings!

In Texas we know that we are being exploited, mistreated, degraded, and abused. Many prisoners in Texas are content with the modern day slave plantation system which is managed and operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. However, many prisoners are not content; in fact they are frustrated and angry. The strategies utilized by prisoners in other states that have similar conditions to Texas, don't necessarily apply here. More accurately stated, we cannot do what others have done because we have not reached the level of solidarity and political development prisoners in other states such as California have reached!

This is not to belittle or degrade my fellow prisoners in Texas; I'm just stating facts! The hunger strike and work stoppage in California forced prison officials to re-assess the oppressive policies which have led to the inhumane treatment. Many human beings are trapped in Pelican Bay and numerous other solitary confinement units in California. Solitary confinement is torture whether it is utilized by CDCR or TDCJ! Abolition of this form of punishment is the only correct solution.

The question which has plagued prisoner rights activists such as myself is: 'what is the best strategy for Texas?' How do we initiate a movement that will be embraced by Texas prisoners and their families alike? Texas is a family oriented state. You cannot proceed with a serious initiative without including family members who will lobby the state legislature and speak to the media on behalf of their loved ones. I was very impressed with the support that California prisoner and Pelican Bay Freedom Fighter Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa received from his sister. Every time I opened the ***S.F. Bay View*** there she was – at protests, speaking to the media/legislators, truly awesome!!

The Slave State

I strongly support abolition of the Prison Industrial Complex; I would like to see an End to Mass Incarceration. I am a multi-racial new Afrikan/Black mixed with Arab and Latino. It is our populations that have been hurt the most by the so-called "War on Drugs." Texas is the most racist and oppressive state in Amerika.

Texas did not want to recognize the emancipation of Black slaves in Amerika; that is why Juneteenth was created, to celebrate Texas' 2-year-late recognition of Federal Law! You see, Texas has a history of ignoring the humyn and civil rights of disadvantaged minorities. If Texas can usurp or circumvent Federal law or the U.S. Constitution in order to oppress Black, Latino/a, or even poor whites, it will! The uniforms that Texas Department of Criminal Justice employees wear are patterned after Confederate soldier uniforms! This is the Truth!

Texas wants to remind you constantly that it supported and still supports the subjugation of New Afrikans. When prisoners are taken to the "Field" to pick cotton, green beans, and corn among other crops, TDCJ officers sit on horses with cowboy hats on, and holding shotguns screaming at you "you better get your cut, Washington, or I'm writing you a case!" I am not lying! This is the reality here in Texas.

The current conditions in Texas dictate that we must address our treatment as slaves and the inability of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to recognize our Good Time and Work Credits. We want these credits directly applied to our sentence so we can return to our families and communities. What Texas has engaged in is a form of sophisticated deception.

The main individuals being deceived are our family members. Most of us (prisoners) are well aware of the deceptive practices perpetrated by the Parole Board. Their actions are promoted, sanctioned, and condoned by the Legislature and the Texas Board of Criminal Justice.

The slave model in Texas is perpetrated by what TDCJ calls TCI or Texas Correctional Industries. On 'paper' TCI is set up as a non-profit which provides job skills and on the job training for prisoners who work in various factory and light industrial jobs throughout Texas. The model is deceptive and TDCJ spends a lot of time and resources giving the general public the impression that rehabilitation is its focus.

However, once a person starts digging and researching the financial records and transactions being made, you'll uncover something else! You see, I spent time as an accountant working in the office of the now defunct Stiles Unit Metal Fabrication Plant located in Beaumont, Texas. What I discovered is that TDCJ and Texas is making a huge profit on the backs of prisoners who provide Free Labor!! Palms are constantly greased; back-door deals are being made in order to keep investors, corporate representatives, and independent contractors happy. It is all a very elaborate system.

The Senior Wardens of these prisons in Texas act as CEOs ensuring a constant flow of slave laborers to run "The Factory." It may be a tire plant, meatpacking plant, furniture factory, textile factory, computer recovery plant, mattress factory, or metal fabrication plant. Profits certainly are being generated but prisoners in Texas don't get paid!! Why is that?

Prison officials and legislators say TCI is providing valuable job skills and training for free. All right then, if that is the case, why won't the Parole Board recognize the Good Time and Work Time credits of all Texas prisoners? Anyone who has worked in one of these factories knows you can't be a "bad actor" to work in the Factory. If I'm being to be forced to work for free, I want to get back to my family as soon as possible so my family can benefit from my new job skills!! But that is not how the slave model is set up. No! It is not working like that.

TX prisoner collapses from heat -- Danny Lyons photo/Phaedon

I have met numerous men who have toiled in these various factories for years, some even decades, yet here they remain, still working for free and the work conditions continue to get worse. Some prisoners work 8 to 12 hour shifts at various factories throughout Texas; many like to drink coffee or work out during breaks in order to relieve stress. TDCJ officers who are assigned to "The Factory" make it a point to be extra harsh in their management style because they know these factory jobs are preferred by prisoners. I mean you're stuck here! Texas doesn't give a damn about you and they certainly aren't interested in paroling you, so if you had a choice between working like Kunta-Kinte in the field or in a factory job, which would you choose?? Prisoners in Texas are caught between a rock and a hard place!

The Texas Philosophy

For those who are well versed in Texas history, you will know that Texas was founded on the precept of White Supremacy!

The current Governor of Texas Greg Abbott subscribes to a eugenic type of thinking in which Black and Brown people are inferior to whites, and this thinking justifies our current enslavement and inhumane treatment. Alexander Stephens, the vice- president of the Confederate States during the U.S. Civil War, best described the philosophy of Texans like Governor Abbott and Brad Livingston, the Executive Director of TDCJ, when he said in an 1861 speech:

"The Confederacy cornerstone rests upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery, subordination to the superior race, is his natural and moral condition."1

This is what we are up against in Texas!

Our Philosophy & Strategy

In Texas as throughout Amerika the so-called low class "negro" comes in various colors, shapes, sizes, and genders!! There are white, black, latino/a, asian, and arab "negros" – trapped inside Texas prisons. Original Black Panther Comrade Fred Hampton best illustrated this point when he entered a white bar in the late 60s to recruit white people to take part in socialist change!

I want you to understand exactly where I am coming from so there won't be any confusion. So I ask you to read and analyze this quote from Comrade Fred Hampton; it comes from a speech he made in 1969:

"We got to face some facts. That the masses are poor, that the masses belong to what you call the lower class, and when I talk about the masses, I'm talking about the white masses, I'm taking about the Black masses, and the Brown masses and the yellow masses too. We've got to face the fact that some people say you fight fire best with fire, but we say you put fire out best with water. We say you don't fight racism with racism, we're gonna fight racism with solidarity. We say you don't fight capitalism with no Black capitalism; you fight capitalism with socialism…"2

This quote embodies the Theory, Philosophy, and Revolutionary Practice of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party (Prison Chapter). Of course we love and respect New Afrikan/Black people, but we shun this uber black nationalism which is embraced by "other" groups passing themselves off as Panthers! You can't brutally attack an elder in this MOVEMENT and say you are representing the best interests of the people! No! That's not Pantherism – but I digress. Let's stay on point!

As prisoners in Texas we have to grab the bull by the horns and take control of our own destiny. Free world supporters can't do this for us. They can help but ultimately the grassroots organizing and effort must be done by us!

First, we must educate our family and friends in reference to the nature of the problem. We must show them the deception and illusion of this imaginary pay and fraudulent Good Time and Work Time credit system.

Truthfully, all Texas prisoners have to do is send their family and friends a print-out of their Time slip. There are thousands of men and wimmin trapped inside Texas prisons. They possess time slips which clearly show accrued Flat-Time, Good Time, and Work Time credit percentages which equal one hundred percent of their current sentence or more.

Texas has built a system which has systematically weakened and destroyed inner city and urban communities. These communities have been targeted by The State and Corporate entities for gentrification. The inhabitants of these communities are predominantly black and brown. In Houston, Texas we have even seen a school superintendent get in on "the action." HISD superintendent Terry Grier did all he could to weaken the schools in Houston that service black and brown inner city youth. And when you deny people adequate access to quality education opportunities, you create conditions which push them into the waiting arms of the criminal justice system! Mr. Grier has announced his resignation. Let's hope Houston chooses an HISD superintendent who will have a vested interested in our success!

So in a nutshell, TDCJ and the Board of Pardons and Paroles work in concert with capitalists in order to sabotage the self-determination of certain communities of color!! What this amounts to is a not so subtle program of Social Control.

We Want Freedom!

What we are asking is that Texas Prisoners have their families visit our Facebook pages and websites in order to see the information we have posted there which explains the issue in easy to understand terms and language. We have phone numbers of key Texas legislators available. What we are proposing is that prisoners encourage their family and friends to contact these Legislators and urge them to craft legislation which will fix this fraudulent slave system.

The bottom line is this:

1) We want our Good Time and Work Time credits counted! – stop telling us you're counting it when you aren't.
2) We want to be paid for our labor!
3) We want our right to vote restored.

Stop fudging the census numbers of the rural communities in which these prisons are located making it "look like" we are citizens when in reality we are slaves! Texas is "gaming the system," making areas look like they have more constituents than they really have. What benefits do we get?? We've seen these games before!! Texas loves to play with re-districting maps and the votes of disadvantaged minorities. Many people don't see the connection between the Texas Slave Plantation System and the manipulation of the vote – I see it!

Solidarity is needed now!

There are approximately 150,000 prisoners housed in Texas prisons. If half of us can convince our loved ones to contact Texas Representatives and Senators in relation to this issue, we can make a significant impact. We need to start discussing this in the Day rooms, on the rec yard, or while we are slaving in the fields or in these factories. It is going to take all of us wimmin and men! I'm not going to talk this issue to death; I've never been much of a "rapper" – I'm about that Action! Are you about that Action?

See "End Prison Slavery." p. 7

Twenty-five years ago in *Turning The Tide*: From Vol. 4 #1, Jan-Feb. 1991:

Neo-nazi Tom Metzger, his son John, and their organization WAR -- White Aryan Resistance -- were socked with a multi-million dollar judgment by a civil jury in Portland OR, which found them liable for inciting the death of Ethiopian refugee Mulugeta Seraw at the hands of several of their nazi bonehead followers.

But in southern California, Metzger is still a racist menace not to be ignored. His followers staged a fund-raising rally in an Orange County park in November. About 30 neo-nazis were met by counter-demonstrators, even after changing the site of their get-together at the last minute. Wyatt Kaldenberg, an ex-leftist follower of Metzger's, is also raising funds for the white supremacist's appeal of the Portland verdict. Paul Smith, a "former" nazi-skin, has put "Race and Reason," Metzger's talk show, on a cable-TV system in Torrance, and plans to run all 80 segments.

Meanwhile, in San Diego, Carl Straight, a frequent

guest on *Race and Reason* and one of Metzger's hard-core followers for years, has been subpoenaed by a federal grand jury investigating the pipe-bombing of the S.D. Federal Building in October. The White Fighting Machine which took credit for the bombing, demanding that Metzger's Portland trial be stopped, hate crimes laws be dropped, and the border be sealed.

Metzger is trying to extract political mileage from his Portland defeat, proclaiming himself a martyr of free speech. He appeared on "Harvey in the Lion's Den" on Channel 2, spouting this line with a couple of dozen nazi-bonehead followers, including Geremi Rineman, who was shot and partially paralyzed in a racial altercation in the San Fernando Valley several months ago.

Metzger's legal problems are far from over. He, Richard Butler of the Aryan Nations in Idaho, and several co-defendants are facing trial in LA on charges arising from a triple cross-burning carried out by WAR, the KKK, the Nazis and Aryan Nations more than 7 years ago. The case was kicked out of court twice by judges impressed by Metzger's free speech claims, but that decision has been overturned on appeal -- too late to save the lives of the people, including Jewish talk show host Alan Berg and a Missouri state trooper, killed by several of the co-defendants after they became federal fugitives.

Metzger is scheduled for a hearing in the LA Superior Court, Dept. 105, on January 11, at which time a new date will probably be set for trial on the cross burning, which took place in Sunland in Dec. 1983.

Twenty years ago in *Turning the Tide*: From Vol. 9 #1, Feb. 1996:

The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee is proud to make available:

The FBI Files

For the first time in the case of Leonard Peltier, the documentation from the FBI that shows Peltier's innocence is now available to the public. Through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit in 1981, the FBI released thousands of their reports in the investigation of the "Resmurs" (reservation murders) case. In this comprehensive and professionally bound booklet of over 100 pages, the FBI's own documents are examined and exposed for the illegal tactics they have used against the American Indian Movement (AIM), and against Leonard Peltier in particular.

Along with this compilation of FOIA documents is an important case study of what led up to the shoot-out on June 26, 1975, various letters of support from invaluable political sources, samples of submissions to the Court of Appeals and the Parole Commission, a statement from Leonard Peltier, and most importantly, what you can do to help free Leonard Peltier. Please contribute to the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and help educate the masses by placing your order below. The FBI Files: $5.00 per booklet. ($3.00 each for orders over ten).

Save the date: February 6, 2016
Free Peltier Cultural/Political Event, L.A.

Fifteen years ago in *Turning the Tide*: From Vol. 13 #4, Winter 2001:

PART's PERSPECTIVE:

ABOLISH THE IMPERIAL PRESIDENCY!

George the Second, pResident-Select, takes office as the 1st US president of the 21st Century under an unprecedented cloud. Despite his media-maintained mantle of 'inevitability,' "Dubya" came in 2nd to Gore across the country and even in the actual vote in Florida.

Bush's coup clings to a fig-leaf of legality by virtue of the approval of 5 Justices appointed or elevated by Reagan-Bush or Bush-Quayle. In Chile or the Philippines, such a coup would require bloody repression to enforce and martial law to maintain. Even in France or Germany, it would be met with massive protest and civil strife. Yet, in the US, the predominant response has been 'relief' that the uncertainty is over.

Bush's mass base is in the old Confederacy and he won through the massive disenfranchisement of Black voters. Fittingly, he serves due to the Electoral College mechanism designed to placate the slave-owning states. But he also 'won' because in the campaign and the post-electoral contest, Gore and the Dems were more afraid of waking up the voters or rocking the boat than they were of allowing Bush and the GOP to take power. Bush relies on the complacency of even most Democrats, and the larger body who don't vote. His reign, like those of more 'legitimate' presidents, rests on people who 'buy in' to our own oppression.

What has this 'civics lesson from hell' taught us about the true nature of US government and society? [We] have learned that our votes don't count, may not be counted, and that under the Constitution, there is no "right to vote." Not only this time, but every time, the campaign and election are a spectacle, a farce whose winner is pre-ordained, so that whoever wins, the rulers win.

The sausage-maker who sees what goes into the casing would never eat a link. Hopefully, this exposure of the everyday criminality and subterfuge that passes for democracy will deepen our distaste until the entire state apparatus, not the head of state, is called into question.

Ten years ago in *Turning The Tide:* from Vol. 19 #1, Jan-Feb. 2006:

On Peak Oil, Climate Change and Fascism part 1

by Gerry Bellow

World demand for oil increases every year. China and India are industrializing. They want oil. China's rapidly growing economy needs more oil every day. Every country in the world that hopes to expand its economy will also need more oil. The whole world is hooked, blasting the tar into its veins like some crazy teen pop star. If we burned every SUV on this over-fed continent this very instant, world demand for oil would still increase.

Every food item is oil dependent. The tractors that tilled the land and harvested it are run on oil. The pesticides and fertilizers that were dumped on it in mighty gouts are made of oil. The trucks that brought the food to you and brought the fertilizers and pesticides to the fields run on oil. The energy to refrigerate it comes from oil. You will buy it, put it in your trunk and burn oil getting it home and burn oil refrigerating it and burn oil (or natural gas) cooking it. Take a bite. Ten times as much energy was put into producing your next spoonful of rice then you will derive from eating it. That mode of food production that brings rice cheaply to your face is not sustainable and no amount of imperialist land grabbing can make it last forever.

...We can't produce food at the rate we are now without dumping oil by the barrel on our crops. The so-called "green revolution" is entirely dependant on cheap oil. When cheap oil runs out so does cheap food.

Who controls food production here? And I mean controls. Control does not mean you "own" the patent on the seeds or the fertilizer. It doesn't mean you control the highways or the trucks that move the pesticides and crops.... We usually associate control ultimately with military might. Whose troops exactly are all over the farm belt? There are 100 tanks sitting in Kansas at Ft Riley along with 7000 troops. The National Guard has smaller assets scattered about the state. There are 105 counties in Kansas. A pair of armored vehicles and 130 troops does not constitute control of more than 4 city blocks. Kansas is the only state in the farm belt with regular army formations stationed in it!

Who controls the food in Kansas? The people who grow it do. Without their consent you couldn't plant grain. If they resist you couldn't harvest or ship it. They are not going to do business on unfavorable terms. And it's a logistical impossibility to use force to make them. Did I mention that they are armed?

The farm belt has always been a vast angry well of white men with the potential for fascism to draw on. The government and global capital are no longer interested in subsidizing them. Yet they see themselves at the center of the mythic American dream. Combine their déclassé resentment with a new value on food and they WILL exert power to regain their (mythic and self-assumed) place at the idealized center of America. Did I mention that they are armed?

The last nasty side effect of oil technology is climate change. Burning all this carbon is changing the climate. I don't care if the president doesn't believe in global warming. Global climate change will affect the world's ability to produce food. People need food. And when they don't have it they will do anything to get it. That's the same from New York to New Guinea.

We have had the nastiest set of hurricanes in history this year. They completely destroyed a major metropolitan area and wiped out a number of smaller cities. Beaumont TX? Gone. Biloxi MS? Damaged. Lafayette LA? Hurt. They are still finding bodies in New Orleans 4 months later. Whole small communities and suburbs were literally wiped off the map – and that's in an advanced, industrial country. This year's hurricane season caused more physical destruction to the territory of the United States than all wars save the Civil War combined. And this season was not an aberration; it was a beginning of a trend.

Five years ago in *Turning The Tide*: from Volume 24 #1, Jan-March 2011:

TO THE AFRIKAN INTERCOMMUNALIST YOUTH - TO THEIR FATHERS - WE WILL NOW CRITICIZE THE UNJUST WITH THE WEAPON!

Statement from the Central Committee of the BRLP: All Power to the People!

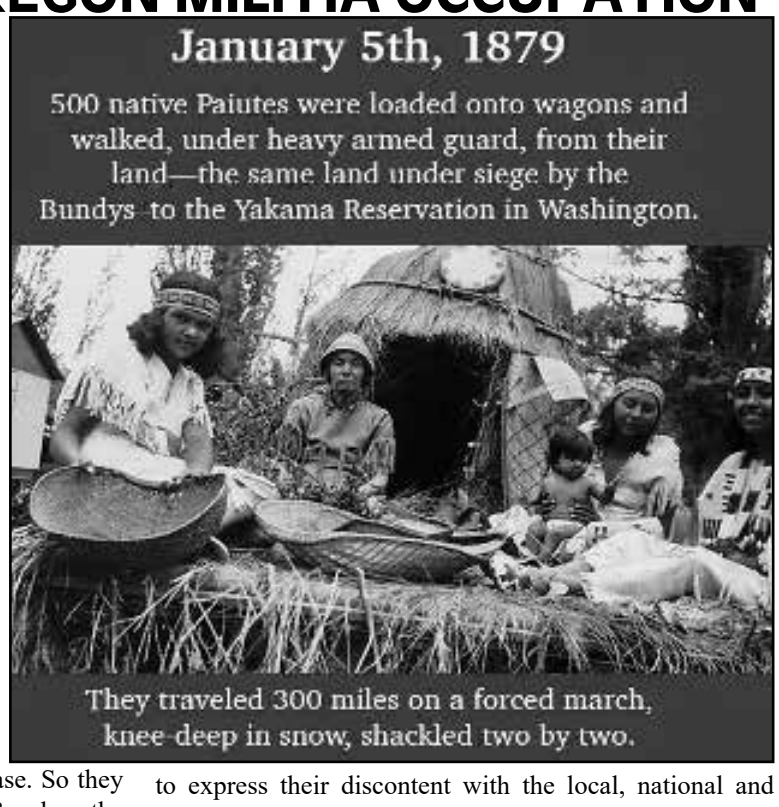
Revolutionary Greetings! Due to the Black revolutionary consciousness that is surging around the country, the Black Riders Liberation Party has organized a powerful nationwide prison chapter. New recruits from all over the country are setting up branches for the prison chapter in the spirit of George Jackson and his brother/alter-ego Jonathan Jackson. Each branch is organized by state. We have received numerous requests from people on the streets around the country to set up

chapters, especially on the East Coast. Also, the Northern California chapter of the Black Riders was officially opened during the struggle to seek justice for Oscar Grant with a Feed the People program amongst the rebellious masses in Oakland. We openly admit that the requirements to be a member of Black Riders requires strict discipline but we encourage others to take up the banner of freedom and bang on the system with a strong, structured revolutionary organization. There must be no other course but to fight it out. Every political and military position must be held to the last Black man and Black woman. There must be no retreat and no surrender. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause, each one of us must fight on to the end. We call on all Black people who still believe in freedom to join us or support us with their minds, bodies, and souls. There is a great war to be won and we will win it together. The Black man and Black woman, once properly politically educated, culturally inspired, and physically trained, is the greatest human fighting machine the world has ever known!

ANTI-COLONIAL RESPONSE NEEDED TO OREGON MILITIA OCCUPATION

In a video posted to Facebook, Ammon Bundy, a son of Cliven Bundy, who led an armed stand-off with federal forces over his illegal grazing on federal land in Nevada, stated: "We have basically taken over the Malheur Wildlife Refuge. And this will become a base place for patriots from all over the country to come and be housed here and to live here. And we're planning on staying here for several years." He called his group "the point of the spear," and asked like-minded militants to "bring your arms."

Ryan Bundy, second of three sons involved, told The Oregonian the militia's demands: release the Hammonds (two local men re-sentenced to 5 years under federal mandatory minimums as part of the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act for two arsons on federal land) and cede the surrounding federal lands to local control. "The best possible outcome is that the ranchers that have been kicked out of the area... will come back and reclaim their land, and the wildlife refuge will be shut down forever and the federal government will relinquish such control," Ryan Bundy said. He added, "What we're doing is not rebellious. What we're doing is in accordance with the Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land." The Bundy brothers have been encouraged in their armed "resistance" to federal authority by the earlier concessions to their father and his armed actions in NV to resist federal efforts to confiscate his cattle, illegally grazing on "federal" land (actually also stolen Native land) in Nevada without paying fees. The Feds returned his cattle and have never charged Bundy for the previous thefts or for the armed actions.



In the parking lot of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge that the militants stormed and took over, a man who claimed to be a bodyguard for the leaders said, preposterously, that they are facing worse resistance than Black Lives Matter, according to a report on the Huffington Post. "The Black Lives Matter movement, they can go and protest, close freeways down and all that stuff, and they don't get any backlash, not on the level that we're getting," said the man, who identified himself as "Fluffy Unicorn." He admitted that police have used force against Black Lives Matter protesters, but claimed that "their level of protesting is different; we're not obstructing schools." (In fact, the local school district canceled classes because of the threat of violence due to the occupation of the federal wildlife preserve cabin.)

The land in question, of course, was stolen at gunpoint in the first place by other armed white settlers from the indigenous Paiute people. The state of Oregon, on stolen Native land, was admitted to the Union as a state under a constitution that reserved it exclusively for white people. The fundamental response to this must be an anti-colonial one.

Native writer and activist Jacqueline Keeler explained on Democracy Now!: "This is the 137th anniversary of when 500 Paiutes were loaded onto wagons and walked, under heavy armed guard, from the lands where the Bundys are right now holding it and to the Yakama Reservation in Washington state, some 300 miles, knee-deep in snow. And they were forced to march, shackled two by two," she said.

Keeler also discussed how the lands were stolen: "With incursions from white settlers, they basically pressured the federal government to open it up to settlement. And so, in 1876, President Grant did that. And then, after there was an uprising with the Bannock Indian War in 1878, due to issues of starvation and deprivation in the middle of winter again, the Bannock and the Paiute rose up, and then that's when they were force-marched out of the area and lost most of the land. They were allowed to return five years later, but they didn't have a land base. So they were working for local ranchers—until 1928, when the Egan Land Company gave the Burns Paiute 10 acres of land just outside the city. The land was an old city dump, which the Indians cleaned and drilled a well to make ready for houses."

The chair of the federally recognized Burns Paiute Tribe, Charlotte Rodrique, said the Paiute never voluntarily gave up their land. "There was never an agreement that we were giving up this land. We were dragged out of here," Rodrique told Reuters. Selena Sam, a member of the tribe's council, told Reuters: "The government has become increasingly bureaucratic about allowing the tribe to catch trout, bass and perch in the rivers lacing the mountains and hunt elk and deer in the woods."

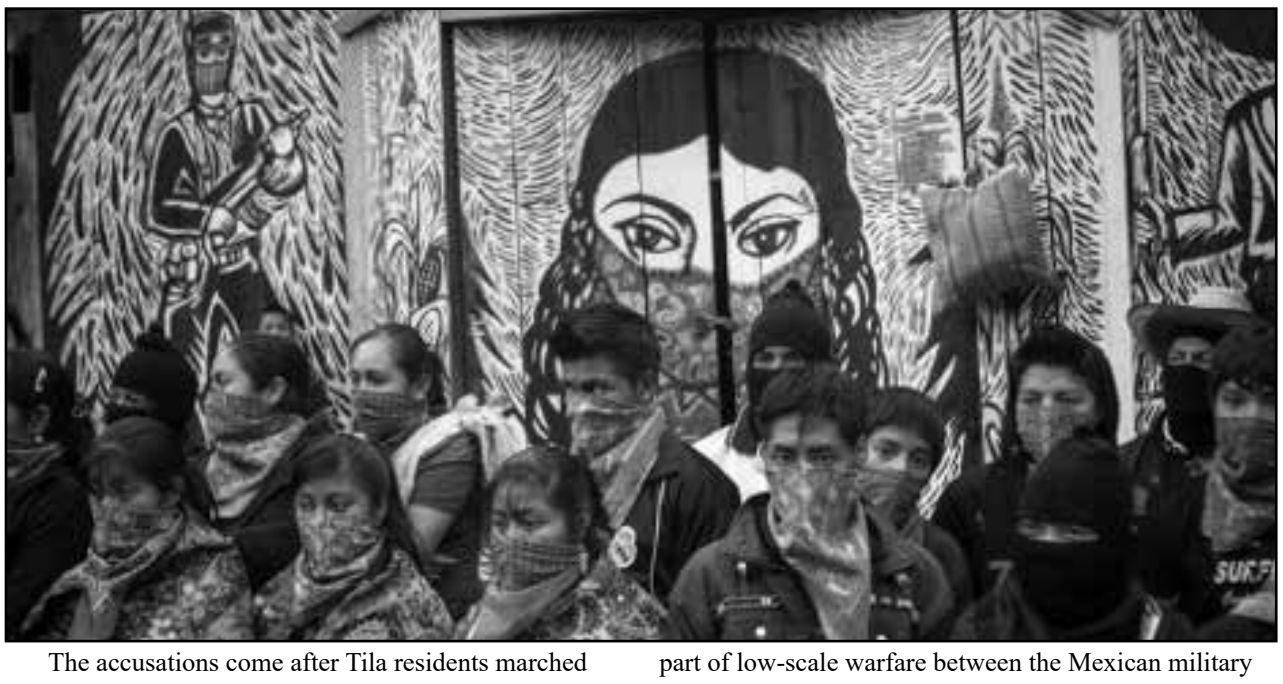
Nana Baakan Agyiriwah makes an apt comparison between the muted, hands-off response to the armed white militia and the treatment of MOVE in Philadelphia. "While the MOVE Organization was not officially declared a terrorist organization, they were indeed treated like they were Enemies of the State. I am from the area and was there when it happened. MOVE people were/are a "back to nature" group of Africans [and others] whose leader's name was John Africa. They felt that the government was vile and used vile language to express their contempt for it. They were mostly self sufficient, planted their own food and were vegetarians and wore dread locks.

"A group of them moved onto Osage Ave. in West Philadelphia. Because they'd been threatened, jailed and tortured by the police for their way of life, they continued to express their discontent with the local, national and global government. In 1985, the Philadelphia PD dropped a bomb on the house. There house was so well fortified that the police after firing multiple rounds could not penetrate the walls. Their bomb ignited a fire that caused the MOVE members, men, women and children, to died in the blaze. Because it was allowed to burn, the entire block was destroyed, and the mostly Black homeowners, displaced and/or homeless." Similar comparisons can be drawn to the military assault on Black Panther Party offices nationally by police forces militarized by the FBI's COINTELPRO domestic war strategy against the Black freedom movement.

The response to this "double standard" should not be to demand equal violent repression by the state, but to expose and de-legitimize the state and other armed white supremacist formations. If we oppose mandatory minimums for drug offenders, and believe that the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, pushed by Bill Clinton, allows for gross miscarriages of justice to stand (it "effectively" eliminated habeas corpus rights that had been in existence since the Magna Carta), then the left should not be supporting harsh treatment of the Hammonds under its provisions, or calling for SWAT teams to attack the "militia." Neither should Obama's crocodile tears convince us his "gun safety" measures are well-meaning attempts to save lives. To the extent that militia impunity indicates that an incipient "dual power" situation of state incapacity is taking hold, we need to think about how to turn it to the advantage of decolonization.

Mexican Paramilitary Group that Killed 120 Indigenous Reappears

http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Mexican-Paramilitary-Group-that-Killed-120-Indigenous-Reappears-20151228-0011.html



The Peace and Justice paramilitary group, accused of being supported by local government, is responsible for killing 122 and displacing 4,000 in Chiapas.

A Mexican paramilitary group that killed or forcibly disappeared 122 indigenous people between 1995 and 2000 is on the rise again in the southern state of Chiapas with suspected links to local politicians, the Mexican daily La Jornada reported Monday.

In a statement, activists in Chiapas accused Edgar Leopoldo Gomez, president of the Tila municipality, of supporting "in his service" the resurgence of the Peace and Justice paramilitary group with the goal of "controlling" local indigenous residents.

The statement was issued by the Tila Ejido Supporters of the Sixth Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle, a Zapatista declaration of revolutionary movements' vision for Mexico.

"In Chiapas, reports of re-start of Peace and Justice paramilitaries."

The group also accused other Tila municipal officials of supporting the rise in paramilitary activity.

Aside from being behind the deaths or disappearances of over 120 indigenous people, the Peace and Justice paramilitary group also has forcibly displaced some 4,000 Ch'ol and Tzeltal indigenous residents in northern Chiapas.

According to the activists' statement, paramilitary perpetrators of historical human rights abuses have long enjoyed impunity for their crimes.

The group accused municipal officials of wanting to bring back the "blood and fire" of paramilitary activity in support of local officials' interests and of using municipal communication resources to organize the Peace and Justice group.

The accusations come after Tila residents marched earlier this month to protest municipal officials after many activists received threats and suffered arbitrary action by authorities, La Jornada reported.

The statement also comes after hundreds of indigenous people held a demonstration last week in the small Chiapas village of Acteal to mark the 18th anniversary of the slaughter of 45 people including pregnant women and children. Activists and survivors have labelled the massacre a "state-sanctioned crime" and accused the government of supporting the paramilitary group behind the attack.

"18 years ago, death came to Acteal."

According to the local human rights organization known as Frayba, which focuses on the rights of Indigenous communities in Chiapas, paramilitary violence toward indigenous people in the region has been part of low-scale warfare between the Mexican military and the EZLN or Zapatista resistance movement.

Tila residents fear an armed paramilitary attack against their community, according to the activists' statement.

The group accused different levels of government in Mexico of "hiding behind" paramilitary groups that carry out their dirty work.

Tila residents also called upon all social organizations to be watchful for what could happen in Chiapas in the face of the paramilitary resurgence.

This content was originally published by teleSUR at the following address:

http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Mexican-Paramilitary-Group-that-Killed-120-Indigenous-Reappears-20151228-0011.html

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

P. O. Box 30158
Los Angeles, Calif. 90030
Telephone: (213) 486-0150
TDD: (877) 275-5273
Ref #: 15.1

October 21, 2011

Mr. Robert Ambroselli
Director, Adult Parole Operations
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
P.O. Box 942883
Sacramento, California 94283-0001

Dear Mr. Ambroselli:

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) is writing you to express its concerns regarding the parole status of parolee Mischa Culton CDC No. G029455. The LAPD has become aware that Mr. Culton is trying to show that the Black Riders Liberation Party is not a gang and that he should be allowed to associate with its members.

The LAPD has had numerous encounters with members of the Black Riders Liberation Party. They have assaulted our officers, and Mr. Culton's leadership of the Black Riders Liberation Party is not a simple association or exercise of the 1st Amendment, but an organized effort to kill, harass, and/or injure police officers.

The LAPD would like to remind the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation that Mr. Culton is on parole status for attempted possession of a machine gun in violation of Penal Code Section 12020(a) P.C. Enclosed are three documents to demonstrate the mentality of this gang and its hostility towards law enforcement.

It is requested that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations maintain Mr. Culton's parole status and prohibit him from associating with the Black Riders Liberation Party or any other gang member as he is recruiting for his violent ideology.

Very truly yours,

CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

MICHAEL P. DOWNING, Deputy Chief
Commanding Officer
Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

Enclosures

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

The LAPD, COINTELPRO, and Pig Chief/Chief Pig Charlie Beck

In 2011, while the LAPD was preparing to attack and disperse Occupy L.A. from its occupation surrounding City Hall, the authorities tried to violate the parole of General T.A.C.O. of the Black Riders Liberation Party, just as they did during the L.A. trial of Johannes Mehserle, the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) pig who shot and killed Oscar Grant in Oakland.

The state and their pig enforcers feared the influence of the revolutionary stance and example of the Black Riders and their leadership around the necessity of self-defense.

While T.A.C.O. was locked up, dozens of supporters from the Black community, from Occupy the Hood and from the Occupy L.A. encampment came out to the parole court in downtown to support him and demand his freedom.

At the same time, LA Pig Chief or chief pig Charlie Beck wrote a memo, shown on the left, exposing the undying enmity of the LAPD towards Black freedom fighters, and the pigs' effort to characterize T.A.C.O. in particular as a dangerous terrorist and threat to the police.

Beck's efforts failed and T.A.C.O. was ordered released back onto parole -- a victory for the people -- although he was forced to wear an electronic shackle around his ankle -- 21st Century slave shackles for a political prisoner.

The pigs also failed to keep T.A.C.O. locked up after the Oscar Grant murder trial, although they staged a preemptive raid on the Black Riders the night before the slap-on-the-wrist verdict on murdering pig Mehserle was to be announced, hoping to provoke a confrontation in which they could assassinate him.

The Black Riders have defeated repeated attempts to incarcerate its leadership, and will continue to do so, because to be attacked by the enemy is only the natural consequence of opposing white supremacist pig oppressors, capitalist exploiters and the slaveocracy.

The Charlie Beck memo shows that COINTELPRO is still alive and well, even though they may have dropped the name, and still aimed at destroying Black freedom fighters.

PART's Perspective:

IMPERIALISM RELEASING THE DOGS OF WAR

by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror***

It's impossible to discuss the rising danger of more naked fascism in the US (currently being widely debated regarding the candidacy of Donald Trump) without recognizing the connection between fascism and war, particularly imperial war.

The continuing conditions of economic, social and environmental crisis that are the breeding grounds for fascist "solutions" and scape-goating are also the conditions that impel empires towards war as a means of finding new sources of wealth to loot, and new ideological weapons to cement their basis of support.

It's important to understand that Trump's bashing of Muslim and Mexican migrants, just like the recent electoral gains of the National Front in France, are connected to the US imperial and proxy wars in North Africa (Libya, Mali) and southwest and central Asia (Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan), and its aggressive counter-insurgency efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean (electoral coups in Haiti, Honduras, and Venezuela, destabilization in Brazil and military intervention via the so-called "drug war" in Mexico and Colombia).

Similarly, the criminalization of dissent and militarization of police in the US cannot be separated from the attempt to shore up its global domination against threats from China, Russia and Iran, and to further hollow out the sham of one-dollar, one-vote "democracy," through mechanisms like to Trans Pacific Partnership. Continued capitalism/colonialism in the US increasingly means economic misery and marginalization for Black, indigenous , Asian, and even alienated white people inside the borders of the imperial homeland. Under the guise of 'reform' and 'accountability', the cops are being increasingly integrated into the national security/surveillance state apparatus, getting training from settler-colonial and imperial partners like Israel, and weapons from the Pentagon.

Retail fascists may offer anti-establishment or even anti-capitalist rhetoric, or envision new coercive ways to control the population and create "folkish" cohesion among the settlers; but the methods of fascism have always been an integral part of the social and political order of the US because of the particularities of settler colonialism. Unlike Germany, which had to perfect its fascist methods of extermination against African populations in "German South West Africa" before unleashing them on Jews, Roma, Slavs and their own workers, the US has always had internally colonized and enslaved peoples to control by any means necessary and to motivate its eugenicist white supremacy. Climate-driven triage of "undesirable" populations has already occurred in New Orleans, accompanied by privatization of public schools and housing.

The war drums that are beating against Iran, Korea again, and the Pentagon planning for military confrontation and conflict with Russia and China form the essential backdrop for the unleashing of fascist forces and repressive measures today, just as a century ago, the "progressive" Wilson administration helped relaunch the Ku Klux Klan, and the US government carried out the Palmer Raids with the locking up and deportation of anarchists, reds and immigrants; just as the Cold War, heating up in Korea and Vietnam produced McCarthyism and COINTELPRO. Anti-racists and anti-capitalists must prepare ourselves by sinking roots of resistance, and by connecting the struggles for peace and racial justice to the effort to liberate the planet once and for all from the scourge of capitalism and colonialism.

Crisis of Capitalism and Colonialism in Puerto Rico

Much as was the case when the struggles to free Puerto Rican political prisoners and POWs coincided with the effort to drive the US Navy out of the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, the effort to free Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar Lopez Rivera, incarcerated for more than 34 years, is reaching a crescendo just as the crisis of capitalism and colonialism in Puerto Rico threatens to disrupt and destabilize US rule in the island nation that has been a direct, militarily occupied colony of the US since the so-called "Spanish-American War" of 1898.

Lopez Rivera, now the longest-held political prisoner in the history of Puerto Rico, has become a unifying symbol of Puerto Rican identity and nationality across the historic disagreements over status that have divided political parties there. As we went to press, candidates for "governor: from all the various political parties in Puerto Rico, as well as the independent candidates, joined in a video-taped call to Barack Obama, to release Lopez Rivera on "Three Kings Day," January 6, his 73rd birthday. They included two independent candidates, Manuel Cidre and Alexandra Lágaro, as well as David Bernier from the pro-"commonwealth" Popular Democrats (aligned with the US Democratic Party historically), Pedro Pierluisi and Ricardo Rosello of the pro-statehood New Progressives (historically close to the US Republicans), and two more left candidates, María de Lourdes Santiago of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (affiliated with the Socialist International) and Rafael Bernabe of the Workers Party took part in the film made by the non-profit Caserío Films.

The backdrop for such unanimity is the impending inability of the Puerto Rican government to meet its financial obligations, primarily to hedge funds that hold hundreds of millions of dollars of Puerto Rican triple-tax-exempt bonds. The hedge funds extracted agreements, in buying up several recent issues of Puerto Rican government bonds that (in addition to high interest rates for the risky but highly profitable debt) the hedge funds would be first in line for collection in the case of any default. They are seeking in federal court to enforce these onerous provisions, ahead of other debtors (including Puerto Rican savers, investors and government employees, whose salaries and pensions are threatened as a result).

Puerto Rico attempted to pass its own law authorized an organized court-supervised bankruptcy proceedings. But in response to that effort, courts have issued preliminary rulings saying that Puerto Rico is prohibited from such measures under the laws enacted to "legalize" and enforce the US takeover of the island from Spain. And in response to a similar effort to prosecute economic malefactors for frauds perpetrated in Puerto Rico after they had been tried in the US, the Obama administration has gone to court saying that such a prosecution would be "double jeopardy," because -- unlike a state, which has a separate sovereignty (and could have a separate prosecution) -- Puerto Rico is not a sovereign entity but a creature of and subject to the control of the US Congress and government. No law passed by Puerto Rico has power unless approved by Congress. In response, the current governor has filed a case with the United Nations saying that this position conflicts with US claims that Puerto Rico was no longer to "non-self-governing" provisions of the UN Charter providing for international oversight of a decolonization process. The US had claimed, since the 1950s, that Puerto Rico's "Commonwealth" status had resolved the colonial contradiction -- now clearly exposed as a lie by the legal and financial maneuvers by the US Dept. of Justice and the hedge fund financiers.

It is this potentially explosive situation and the upcoming US elections that impel the effort to free Lopez Rivera. Puerto Rican voters in Florida are already punishing Marco Rubio, who backed away from a pledge to support bankruptcy for the island to avoid the looting of its pensions and a fire sale on government resources to pay off the creditors. Join the call to free Oscar Lopez Rivera now! For more information, see http://boricuahumanrights.org

Black Riders --
New Generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense

BLACK POWER MEETING IN LOS ANGELES

On December 13, 2015, a Black Power meeting was held in South Central L.A. to educate and train the leader of our new Chicago Chapter - Captain Ausar Sargon - who came to L.A to be taught the correct procedures to conduct the Watch-A-Pig Program and patrol the police in the aftermath of the police murder of Laquan McDonald in Chicago. Captain Ausar Sargon, shown above meeting with General T.A.C.O., participated in the demonstrations there in Chicago, after the police murder of Laquan, and wanted to intensify the struggle. Laquan McDonald was only 17 years old and was shot 16 times by a white racist pig named Jason Van Dyke.

We began the Watch-A-Pig Program in 1997, armed with law booklets, video cameras, paramilitary camouflage fatigues, black berets, black steel toe boots, bats, machetes, knives, Black karate skills, and any other legal weapon we could get a hold of. We launched the first patrols of the police, armed with weapons, since the Original Black Panther Party started in 1966! We all felt a compelling urge to finally risk our lives for something positive instead of something negative. Without a doubt we had to overcome the life threatening reality associated with the patrols. It took an extreme love for our people to have the heart and courage to police the police. We began to monitor police radio calls, jumping out there observing arrests at a legal distance as they questioned Black People, and began to educate our people about their armed self-defense rights.

Black Power! All Power to the People!

You can reach Black Riders Liberation Party - New Generation Black Panther Party for Self Defense, at P.O. Box 8297, Los Angeles, CA 90008, Blackriders1996@gmail.com or by calling 602-842-2757 (BRLP; also on facebook.com/Black-Riders-Liberation-Party, on Twitter: @blackriders1996, or on Instagram, Blackriders1996. The BRLP has been setting up new chapters rapidly around the U.S and is building a nationwide prison chapter.

JOIN NOW!

THE BLACK RIDERS CREED

(When your time comes to die for Black and oppressed people, be not like those whose hearts are filled with fear of death! Sing your song and die like a hero going home!)

I AM A BLACK RIDER!!
I am a soldier and a member of a team!!
I am a servant of the people, and live with revolutionary values!!
I will always place the mission First!!
I will never accept defeat!!
I will never quit!!!!
I am disciplined physically, mentally tough, trained and proficient in the way of a warrior!!
I always maintain my arms, equipment, and self!!
I stand ready to deploy, engage and destroy the enemies of the party and the people!! I am a black Freedom Fighter.
I am a BLACK RIDER!!

Mobile Unit X

Mobile Unit X is our Black Power Van. It is one of the main vehicles that we use to operate the Watch-A-Pig Program and patrol the police in L.A. It also doubles over as a Mobile Command Center for Black Riders-New Generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. At different times it has also been used to transport Black children back and forth to our George Jackson Freedom School. It is equipped with high tech walkie-talkies, video cameras, scanners, a lap top computer, binoculars, TASERs, and other technical equipment needed to fight against pig terrorism and educate our people about the need for security against the pigs with an advanced four-wheeled security system. 2016 marks the 20 year anniversary of Black Riders, which was created in 1996. This vehicle has been a major weapon in our arsenal to win freedom from white supremacy, capitalism, and Amerikkkan Imperialism. **Black Power! All Power to the People!**

FREE HERMAN BELL

Herman Bell has been to the New York state parole board six times and has been denied each time. His next parole board appearance will be in early February 2016. Each time, the board - always made of up former law enforcement personnel and former prosecutors -- reviews his very impressive record, the Bachelor's and Master's college degrees he has attained since being locked up, his job offers, his numerous letters of support from family, friends, and community members from many walks of life.

They have before them evidence of all the ways Herman has helped so many people throughout the course of his confinement and is still leading a positive and progressive life despite being locked up now over four decades. And then they deny him parole based on their opinion that to release him would "deprecate" the serious nature of his charge of conviction. Is this rationale not, in effect, an illegal re-sentencing to life-without-the-possibility-of parole?

When one goes to trial, there is a prosecutor, one's defense attorney, a judge, and a jury. When one goes to the parole board, there is only the prosecution. **More info at freehermanbell.org.**

Here's how you can help:

Herman has taken responsibility for his part in the Black Liberation Movement's resistance to racist authority. He has paid a great price – 42 years of imprisonment, thus far. He is going to the New York state parole board for the seventh time in February 2016 and deserves to be paroled, to come home to his family and community.

1 - Please write your letter to the parole board on professional letterhead.

2 - Please indicate how you know Herman, or if you don't know him personally, how you know of him. Your letter should be addressed to: "To Whom It May Concern" or "Dear Parole Commissioner". The subject line should be "Herman Bell, 79C-0262."

3 - Please sign your letter and mail to Herman's attorney: Robert J. Boyle, 277 Broadway, Suite 1501, New York, NY 10007.

To sign a petition in support of Herman's parole, go to:

http://www.thepetitionsite.com/677/086/596/in-support-of-parole-for-herman-bell-79c0262/

Excerpts from:

A Message from Herman Bell

Fall 2015

Hi, I've been told it's good that you should hear my voice, hear something direct from me. So where to begin, what to say?

I've been locked in a prison cell for 42 years; have spent more time in prison than I have on the streets. I need your support to get me out so I can go home. I'm as ordinary as your neighbor next door. No different than you are. I have a wife, children, and two lovely school-age granddaughters. I value hard work, fair treatment, social justice, transparency and accountability. You can say I'm a "people's" person. I believe strongly that people should help people, that "to each according to his or her needs and from each according to his or her ability."

You see, I am not a criminal in the strict sense of the word. I never posed a danger to civil society. I never sought personal gain from my political actions; never robbed, never threatened, coerced, nor intimidated anyone in civil society. I never sold drugs. But I did, as did others, militantly resist the unrelenting structural violence of white racist domination and control that has afflicted the Black community since Black people were brought here as slaves.

Accordingly, in early February 2016, I will appear once again before the New York State Parole Board, my 7th. I'm eligible for parole release every 2 years. I've done the time on a 25-to-life sentence. I have satisfied all structural requirements over these long years and have had no serious disciplinary issues. Yet each time I appear before the Board, I'm denied parole "due to the nature of my offense;" the assassination of two NYC policemen.

The nature of my sentence of conviction arose from the immense social turmoil of the '60s and '70s and the f.b.i.'s infamous counter-insurgent program known as COINTELPRO that sought through diverse and insidious means to destroy the Black Panther Party founded in Oakland, CA in 1965, that I was a member of.

This government program sought to deny Black political and economic self-empowerment. Destruction of the B.P.P., in the words of then f.b.i. director Hoover "by any means necessary," was paramount to this design. Nationally, Cointelpro enlisted the aid of local and state police agencies in this campaign. It was a push to maintain the levers of racist political power in this country that has dominated and controlled the lives of Black people through terror, bloodshed, lashing and lynching since its founding. (The rage and sorrow of Black people had sat in the darkness far too long.) And we pushed back in defense of our community: against that tradition of domination and control that has persistently fed off Black people in this country longer than they have been freed. It was an unapologetic direct attack on and resistance to the racist power structure in this country that has so historically maltreated and shamelessly exploited Black people as though it were a national birthright. It gratified some and astonished others. And as unfortunate and regrettable as it often is in civil conflict, violence and bloodshed on both sides are bound to occur.

You may find my sentence of conviction inexcusable. You may likewise find the government's actions during those times inexcusable too. We Panthers were imprisoned. F.b.i., state, and local police agents and their provocateurs went unindicted for their unprovoked attacks on the Black community.

"Slavery by Another Name," a book by American author Douglas Blackmon, says of america: "We formed in molds twisted by the gifts we received at the expense of others. It is not our 'fault.' But it is undeniably our inheritance." Current f.b.i. director Comey admits that "the history of law enforcement in this country was not only part of the architecture of oppression but also a brutal tool of that system."

This history, these events, are what I'm up against whenever I go before the Parole Board. The NY police union (PBA) have a close connection with the NY tabloids and each time before I go to the Board, newspaper articles opposing my release is a front page story and online the PBA circulates a petition opposing my release, creating the impression of groundswell opposition to my release, when it's just the PBA.

You can write the New York State Parole Board and tell them how you feel. By writing the Parole Board supporting my release (because I've done the time, have satisfied all legal requirements, and deserve to be released) does in no way mean that you advocate, support, or intend to mimic what I did yourself. It simply mean you think I've done enough time and should be allowed to go home.

Thank you -- Herman

End Sleep Deprivation Torture in Pelican Bay SHU

Please help stop the sleep deprivation torture being waged against the men in Pelican Bay SHU (solitary confinement). Since August 2, 2015, they have been awakened every 20-30 minutes, 48 times a day, due to so-called "security/welfare checks."

The architecture of the Pelican Bay SHU (PB SHU) amplifies the loud noise of the checks including pod doors opening and slamming closed, chains and locks rattling, guards' boots stomping, metal rods clanging on cell doors, and the beeping of the electronic monitoring system at each cell door. In addition, sometimes guards shine their flashlights into people's eyes.

As of the new year, January 1, 2016, it has been 152 days that these men have been tortured by sleep deprivation.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) claims the 30 minute checks are intended to prevent suicide. But we know that interrupted sleep can cause interrupted sleep can cause serious mental and physical health problems. John R. Martinez, in solitary for 15 years and in Pelican Bay SHU for over a decade, wrote in late August: "…there is a reasonable probability that life-threatening injuries and/or even death is inevitable, as medical symptoms are only worsening but not being treated." People locked up in PB SHU report health problems including:

severe stress	**weight loss**	**dizziness**
faintness	**nausea**	**headaches**
eye problems	**stomach and bowel problems**	
depression	**fast heart rates**	

John's mother, Dolores Canales, co-founder of California Families Against Solitary Confinement and the Family Unity Network, said: "I visited my son in the Pelican Bay SHU on 12 September and he is going crazy from not being able to sleep. I've never seen him like this. He couldn't think, and he fell asleep while I was talking with him from across the glass partition." John was in that state in September after 5 and a half weeks of sleep deprivation. It has now been 5 months since the checks started on August 2, 2015. This is extremely cruel and dangerous.

The 1,000 to 1,200 men inside Pelican Bay SHU need all of us to act to get CDCr to stop the checks now! The checks are causing sleep deprivation, which is torture. These checks serve no welfare or security purpose; they only harm the prisoners, mentally and physically.

Take action now! Here are some ways that you and your organization(s) can get involved:

(1) Make calls to stop the 30-minute checks:

CDCR Secretary's Office: 916-323-6001
CDCR Director of Adult Divisions, Kelly Harrington (he): 916-445-7688
Senator Loni Hancock, Chair of Senate Public Safety Committee: 916-651-4009
Assembly Member Bill Quirk, Chair of Assembly Public Safety Committee: 916-319-2020
Suggested script for calls: Begin with your name and what city and state you live in. Please tell all of them: "Stop the so-called 'welfare' checks in the SHU at Pelican Bay State Prison. Sleep deprivation is torture."

(2) Join/support our next major statewide action on February 1st in Sacramento! We are planning a huge action, including people from all over the state of California, outside CDCr headquarters, if the checks have not stopped by then! We need help doing outreach, getting people to attend, and arranging rideshares from the SF and Monterey Bay Areas and Southern California. Stay tuned for a Facebook event page.

(3) Spread the word! More people need to know about

this sleep deprivation! Share the SF Bay View article, the American Public Health Association (APHA) letter opposing the checks, and this video. (Video, by Liberated Lens, of our Emergency Protest at CDCr in Sacramento on Nov. 30, 2015, the 119th day of sleep deprivation torture.) Get more information on our website and Facebook page.

(4) Send us testimony from men who have experienced the Pelican Bay SHU sleep deprivation and from their family members and loved ones. To contribute their words or letters, email phssreachingout@gmail.com.

We look forward to working with you to stop the torture of sleep deprivation.

In solidarity and joint struggle,
Committee to Stop the Sleep Deprivation,
Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition

https://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com/voices-from-inside/sleep-deprivation-in-pelican-bay-shu/letter-to-organizations-and-individuals-january-2016/

URGENT APPEAL

We need your financial support to continue sending the paper free to nearly 2000 prisoners around CA and the US.

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Postage alone for this issue comes to nearly $1000. We added an extra issue of *Turning the Tide* last year, but we couldn't mail the 5th issue to prisoners. If you're a prisoner and can send stamps or get someone outside the walls to subsidize your subscription, please do so. If you work with an info shop or other zine or record distro, please order a bundle of TTT to distribute; $5 will get you 20 copies. And check out our 100X100 campaign below - please forward on social media. If you live in L.A. or nearby, we can come to house meetings to speak and collect donations for the paper. Email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide & ARA-LA.

You can find archives of ***Turning the Tide*** at **www.antiracist.org** that go back more than eight years, plus back issues of the ***Black Rider African Intercommunal News Service***.
In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as facebook.com/tideturning, and facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity. You can follow @ara_losangeles on Twitter, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at ara-la.tumblr.com.

Valentines Eve
Benefit Dance
for Turning The Tide

Saturday, February 13, 8 PM
Peace Center,
3916 S. Sepulveda, Culver City
$10 donation

Come celebrate TTT editor Michael Novick's 69th birthday with a dance party featuring 60s music - party like it's 1969! Help pay for getting ***Turning The Tide*** into the hands of nearly 2000 prisoners around CA and the US!

Michael Novick, founder of People Against Racist Terror/Anti-Racist Action-L.A. and editor of ***Turning The Tide*** since its inception in 1988, is turning 69 and well into his second half-century of anti-racist organizing and agitating. He's inviting TTT readers to come celebrate with him, and simultaneously advance the cause of 21st Century abolitionism -- abolish prisons, police, wage slavery, white supremacy and colonialism!

Come dressed to boogie (or in 60s attire; or both) and enjoy 60s rock, R & B, Motown, jazz and more. No host bar and lots of munchies. Plus a slide-show of TTT issues from the '80s, '90s, '00s, and 2010's.

BLACK LIVES MATTER-L.A. FACING REPRESSION

BLM chapters in Minneapolis, Los Angeles, New York, Washington D.C., Chicago, and the SF Bay Area declared December 23, 2015 as Black Xmas. They took actions to impede the flow of goods and commerce with peaceful protests to call for an immediate overhaul of the justice system both locally and nationally that will demand accountability for police, removal of grand juries in cases involving police shootings, an immediate halt to militarized police units and weapons, and extensive review of racialized police practices in Black neighborhoods.

Black Xmas is here and there will be no business as usual until we get accountability for our dead, and justice for the living. Instead of buying gifts to fuel this system, Black Xmas is a day of action to reject the degradation of Black families and communities by police, politicians, and predatory companies, and declare our inherent worth. We will disrupt business as usual until city, state, and federal budgets stop funding Black death and start funding Black futures.

Whether cisgendered, trans, or queer; women or men, elders or children – our Black families refuse to live trapped between poverty and police state violence. From slavery to segregation to the rampant state violence of the 21st century, Black communities have lived too long under state repression and corporate power for too long. In solidarity with migrant, Palestinian and all oppressed people, we proclaim our humanity, reclaim our streets, and exclaim for the world to hear: Black Lives Matter.

Activists were arrested in Chicago, Minneapolis and elsewhere. Melina Abdullah says L.A.'s protesters, who shut the 405 freeway, were dealt with particularly harshly. The CHP arrested #BLMLA members and allies, including Abdullah. She was held in a "segregated unit," isolation, over Christmas Eve in LA county jail. Her bail on Christmas Day, and Kwazi nkrumah, another arrestee, got out the next day. "I had no cellmate," Abdullah told the LA Weekly. "I wasn't given paper, a pencil, nothing. Just a blanket and a pad. I wasn't able to make a phone call for 24 hours."

Nana Gyamfi, an attorney for Black Lives Matter L.A. and one of the hosts of KPFK's "Uprising" show, said the 9 activists face felonies for chalking the names of people killed by police on the blocked freeway. "There's a lot about their confinement that [was] crazy," Gyamfi says. "Everyone was in solitary confinement. The men were handcuffed and leg-shackled, with a waist chain when they were moved."

Gyamfi described the 405 protest as "really a traffic-ticket case. And really, as far as I'm concerned, the purpose [of the jailings] is to intimidate. The purpose is to bully."

BLM-LA is seeking to raise $60,000 to cover legal fees and other defense efforts for these and other cases (Jasmine Abdullah no relation to Melina has three different cases in Pasadena courts alone). People can donate at https://www.crowdrise.com/blmla. There is also a campaign to get City Attorney Feuer to drop all charges by calling him at 213-978-8100.

100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of *Turning the Tide*

Over its 28 year publishing history, ***TTT*** has been published in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we print four 8-page issues a year. Now, to restore bi-monthly publication, we have launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed **"100X100."**

We're looking for one hundred people who will donate $100 a year, or $10/mo, to make it possible for ***TTT*** to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing nearly 2000 copies of each issue into the prisons. You can donate online at http://gofundme.com/eugzgg.

Turning the Tide doesn't print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps; their contribution more often comes by writing articles, letters and poems or sending in drawings. Often, they pass the copy of ***TTT*** that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners.**Prisoners, if you can find donors or subscribers outside prison to subsidize your sub, that would help a lot**.

If you'd like to see ***Turning the Tide*** more frequently, if you want to contribute to breaking down the walls of isolation and separation imposed by the prison system, please contribute. If you can't manage $100 all at once, you could donate $10 a month. But any donation you make can help. Postage costs for a single issue of TTT are almost $1000 and climbing. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, Twitter followers, and email contacts. Everything helps.

If the campaign is successful, we will begin publishing every other month in 2015. Postage is our biggest expense. Nobody gets paid at ***TTT.*** But the Postal Service is not so generous. We have a handful of people who are sustainers, making a monthly donation, a larger number of people who subscribe once a year or so. Right now, we are at 10% of our goal. LA supporters could set up house meetings, where the editor will pitch to your friends for support. The future of ***Turning the Tide*** is in your hands. Now, while you're thinking about it, go to:

http://gofundme.com/eugzgg

and donate. Then share it with your contacts. With your help, ***Turning the Tide*** can step up to the "urgency of now" -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, colonialism, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible.

If you think ***TTT*** is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to **Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.**

End Prison Slavery in Texas Now!

...continued from page 1

If you are serious about change have your Family visit:
http://www.facebook.com/comrademalikwashington or http://comrademalik.com/
Look for campaign to: End Prison Slavery in Texas.

You see, comrades, I am not operating under any illusions. As I said at the beginning of this essay, some will be content with this slave-like existence, some won't be content. Some may go tell the "Boss man," "That guy Malik is stirrin' up trouble again Boss!" and like always the oppressors will do what they've always done – lock me up in solitary, transfer me, write bogus disciplinary reports, deny my Parole, or try to get some misguided street tribe members to assault me! I've been through all that and more! I am determined to improve our condition even if it kills me. For those of you who are sick and tired of being slaves, I ask that you help me End Prison Slavery in Texas Now!

I leave you with another quote from Comrade Fred Hampton:

"First of all, we say primarily that the priority of this struggle is class. That Marx, and Lenin, and Che Guevara, and Mao Tse-Tung and anybody else that ever said or knew or practiced anything about revolution, always said that a revolution is a class struggle. It was one class – the oppressed – against the other class, the oppressor. And it's got to be a universal Fact. Those that don't admit to that are those that don't want to get involved in revolution because they know as long as they're dealing with a race thing, they'll never be involved in a revolution. They can talk about numbers, they can hang you up in many, many ways…"3

So, what will it be, a life of involuntary servitude, helping to sustain this slave system, or Freedom building up your communities and supporting your Families?
We have nothing to lose but our chains!! Dare to struggle, Dare to win, All Power to the People!

Keith 'Malik' Washington, #1487958
Coffield Unit
2661 FM 2054
Tennessee Colony, TX 75884

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

★ Thurs, 4/14, 7p, L.A. White People 4 Black Lives whitepeople4racialjustice@gmail.com
★ Apr. 23, Disrupt the KKK & White Supremacy at Stone Mountain, GA: see p. 4
★ Sat, 4/30 5p #Every28Hours presentation & panel Neighborhood UU,Pasadena
#BLMLA Fundraiser w Arlene Eisen, Melina Abdullah, Michael Novick see p.7
★ 100X100 Fundraising Campaign for TTT gofundme.com/eugzgg
★ Sun., May 1-Intl Workers Day, LA - Olympic & Figueroa, 10 AM & elsewhere
★ May 5 Cinco de Mayo - Celebrate Mexico's victory over the French Empire
Check us out via www.antiracist.org, facebook.com/tideturning, ara-la.tumblr.com

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- MUMIA ABU JAMAL

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TTT published at least four times a year. **No checks to Turning the Tide, please! Can't process them!** Please write us every time your address changes, with your EXACT address as it should appear on the address label. **TTT** is a small project with few resources: **we can't provide books or legal aid, or investigate individuals' innocence.**

A JOURNAL OF INTER-COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY

TURNING THE TIDE

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Water, Food and Shelter are Basic Human Rights

Black Riders Free Water Giveaway in Flint, Free Food Giveaway in Los Angeles

Peru peasants protest for water sovereignty, US homeless demand homes not jails

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★ Black Riders Food & Water Give-aways
★ Focus on Brazil
★ and Much More!

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Imperialist & Settler Colonial Privilege:

Water, Water Everywhere, Nor Any a Drop To Drink

PART's PERSPECTIVE by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***

California's state government officials and others are patting themselves on the back at the success of consumer water conservation measures, which, combined with recent El Nino rainfall and snowfall, have raised water levels back up from record lows during the state's long drought (which may not be over for the long term). The premature self-congratulation reflects the arrogance and privilege that dominate thinking in the US about what are termed "natural resources."

Forgotten is the long-term contract under which Nestle extracted, bottled and privatized public drinking water through many long months and years of arid conditions. Unmentioned is the use of water for "fracking," hydraulic fracturing to force additional gas and oil out of depleted, depressurized wells, or the resultant contamination of underground water supplies. Ignored except by activists is enormous thirst of industrialized agribusiness and animal husbandry, which uses far more water than that consumed directly by individual residents in their homes.

People gather in Gujarat, India to seek water from a well.-UN Water Day photo

But water is very much on people's minds, not only because of the drought, but because of the enormous, scandalous crime of the government of the State of Michigan (and the US Environmental Protection Agency) against the people of Flint Michigan. In that predominantly Black city, the emergency manager imposed by Gov. Rick Snyder, knowing the consequences, switched the source of the city's water supply to the toxic, acidic Flint River (polluted for decades by industrial effluents), without lining the city's water pipes to protect them. The anticipated result occurred -- the water began to leach lead from the pipes, so that all the drinking, cooking and showering water in Flint became contaminated, basically unfit for human use or consumption, and with horrible physiological, medical and mental problems for the children exposed to it. The belated disclosure of these crimes resulted in awareness that lead contamination is quite widespread in US drinking water systems, from Newark New Jersey to schools right here in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

In Bolivia, some years ago, when the government attempted to privatize the water system, there was a mass uprising of mostly poor, indigenous people, that forced the cancellation of the contract and the restoration of water as a public utility. This was instrumental in the process of building a movement that could win control of the government and empower indigenous people -- not yet a full social, economic and political transformation of the state and society, but an advance in the popular struggles in Latin America.

Where are the corresponding uprisings in the US? There is a deep-rooted denial among people in the US of the existence of colonialism inside the borders. The "Third World" of colonized, malnourished, thirsty people, of women who must carry water on their heads for long distances, or wash their clothes by hand in the river, or expropriate water for their shanty-towns or gardens, is "out there." The USA is number 1 we say. This ignores the reality that before Flint, there was Detroit, where the publicly-owned water utility went about closing off the water supply of hundreds of mostly poor and Black residents who had fallen behind on their water bills after the rates were raised. Detroit is another Michigan city, like Flint, where local government has been stripped of any democratic pretense and is being run by an emergency manager appointed by Gov. Snyder. In fact, a majority of the Black population of the state now lives under the rule of such undemocratic managers, with the devastating consequences and denial of fundamental human rights discussed above. The name for this denial of "home rule" anywhere else in the world is well-known -- colonialism.

But the fundamental colonialism at the root of the ecologically-destructive practices with water in the US is settler colonialism -- the theft of Native land, denial of indigenous people's sovereignty, genocidal policies against First Nation peoples, and imposition of a system of privatization that serves as the basis for the construction of a massively repressive state structure to maintain that theft. That state structure includes not only the police and the military, but the courts, prisons, schools, bureaucracy and the telephone-book-thick compilations of laws that enforce and reinforce privatization of water, land, and so-called "natural resources." Mainstream, corporate dominated "environmentalism" has been a part of this paradigm and problem.

"Privilege" is the name for something not yours by right, something that distinguishes you from others by virtue of its possession. To keep their privileges, people give in and go along. To defend their rights, people stand up and fight back. So long as access to potable water, nourishing, healthful food, and shelter fit for the habitat of human beings are viewed as privileges and subject to market domination -- that is, private expropriation and production for profit -- we are incapable of truly fighting to preserve the water, the soil and air, or our own human rights as part of the natural world. And our incapacity to fight manifests itself in the continued and escalating poisoning of the water and the soil, disruption of the water cycle, depletion of 10 or 20,000 year old aquifers, acidification of the oceans due to excessive CO_2 and methane emissions, melting polar ice, including the Antarctic and Greenland land-based ice-sheets that will raise ocean levels and inundate shore-line cities -- a large portion of the Florida peninsula is going to be submerged in the lifetimes of people now living.

At a succession of international conferences, the US and other Western powers turned a deaf ear to island nation peoples and those from low-lying countries like Bangladesh, warning of the deadly impact and consequences of global warming. We ignored the warning of indigenous elders from Greenland, who testified they could hear the water running beneath the island's ice sheets even during the winter. Mired in the mentality of privilege, the population in the US or Europe

Children in Flint Michigan march in protest to demand safe drinking water.

still has not risen up against the imperial governments. We are divided against ourselves, looking for scape-goats or victims to blame; thus Trump, Le Pen and the nazi-led anti-immigrant protests in Germany and elsewhere. We look at peasant women in Brazil, or Nigeria, or India or the Philippines, queuing up for water from a well to carry back to their homes, and we think we have it good.

But if we imagine that privilege will protect us from the consequences of not rising up and fighting back while there is still a chance, we are truly detached from reality. Not so long ago, there were hundreds of thousands in the US without hot and cold running water or indoor plumbing. We can begin to see now that those days are returning -- not just for Native people on reservations or Black people in Flint or Detroit.

Water doesn't originate from the tap, nor is food produced at the supermarket. Those are the ends of now-global supply chains that originate in the exploitation and expropriation of the natural world (which is the basis for continued life on this planet) and are processed through the coercive exploitation of human labor, both physical and mental, for private profit. But we cannot overturn this parasitical, death-dealing system without overturning the colonialism on which it is based and which it perpetuates, with our complicity.

We must embrace and unite with the struggles of indigenous people around the world, including inside the so-called borders of the US to assert their sovereignty and defend the natural world. For example, the Piipaash Uumish of Maricopa Colony, AZ, recently denounced a water district proposal to install pipelines to carry blended "Reclaimed/Effluent" (sewer) water. "The project proposes to trade treated sewer/effluent water from Chandler and Mesa municipalities for our Central Arizona Project water at a 5:4 ratio. It then intends to pipe the 'reclaimed' water back into our Community (mixing some with more CAP water creating 'blended' water) and apply it on tribal and allotted lands for agricultural and other purposes," they said.

The Piipaash Community, as of September 19, 2015, voted to keep the pipelines and all reclaimed/ effluent/ blended water from entering into their territory, citing serious health risks. The Piipaash are concerned about the affects of the reclaimed water on the environment, specifically the foods, wildlife and vegetation, cultural and spiritual sites, and the overall impact of the reclaimed sewer water on our underground waters and natural recharge. They are requesting the Tribal Council and all concerned committees and departments within the Gila River Indian Community, the AZ Governor, Lt. Governor, Department of Environmental Quality, the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project, "and all entities involving Water on or off our traditional territories, to acknowledge the Piipaash Indigenous Nation's resolution to keep Reclaimed/Effluent water off our lands and out of our waters." For more information contact Owe Aku International Justice Project at oweakuinternational@me.com or 720-469-1178, 7685 S. Olive Cir., Centennial, CO 80112.

Elsewhere in this issue, you can read about the efforts by the Black Riders Liberation Party to meet the human rights and need of Black people in Flint for water.
The path forward to environmental sustainability is by uniting with such anti-colonial efforts, as for instance the Palestinian resistance to Israeli theft of their water, or the defense of Syrian refugees from drought and war.

Nigerian women and men in armed march to defend their village resources and water.

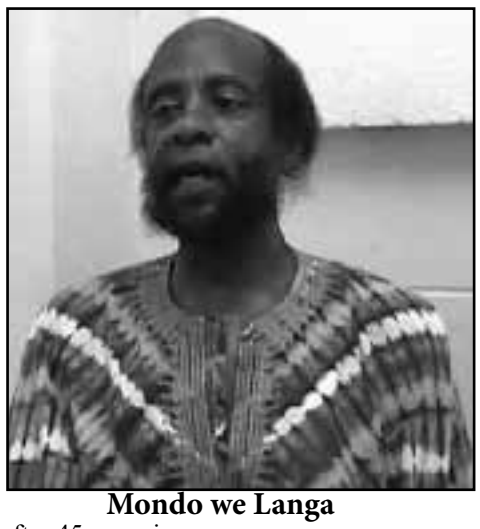
MONDO MOURNED

© 2016 **by Mumia Abu-Jamal**

He was born David Rice, and in his youth, he joined an offshoot of the Black Panther Party, a decision that would change his life's trajectory.

For, when he and another young man, Edward Poindexter, joined the National Committee to Combat Fascism (NCCF), they walked into the crosshairs of the state.

The 2 men became enmeshed in a COINTELPRO scheme to remove them from the streets of Lincoln, Nebraska. Rice and Ed were charged with the August 1970 killing of an Omaha cop, who picked up a briefcase loaded with dynamite.



Mondo we Langa

According to the group Nebraskans for Justice, another man, Christopher Peak was the state's only suspect in the bombing. But shortly thereafter, after first exonerating Rice and Poindexter, Peak would become the State's chief witness against them.

In April 1971, both men were convicted and given life terms; such flimsy evidence would be a factor in Amnesty International's naming the two Panthers as prisoners of conscience.

On Sunday we learned that Rice, who changed his name to Mondo we Langa, died a long, lonely death in his prison cell, after 45 years in a cage.

Mondo and Ed were members of the National Committee to Combat Fascism, but in truth, they were Panthers. For that is certainly how the State treated them.

Mondo we Langa and Ed Poindexter were servants of the People, dedicated to their freedom and dignity. Mondo we Langa and Ed Poindexter were soldiers for the People, dedicated to their defense and security.

Mondo we Langa is no more - neither is David Rice--; and yet, Mondo will be remembered for many, many long years for his service.

Mondo, after many, many years in a cage, now joins his ancestors.

--© '16maj [col. writ. 3/14/16]

List of Demands
from Men Incarcerated at Holman Prison in Alabama

https://medium.com/@aintacrow/list-of-demands-from-men-incarcerated-at-holman-prison-in-alabama-8707ef9d63aa#.qrfnk4tlp

by Raven Rakia

Two uprisings occurred at Holman prison in Alabama recently. One, starting on Friday night involved fires being set after the Warden was stabbed. The second on Monday morning, involved 70–100 men barricading themselves inside their dormitory. The men at Holman Prison have released a set of demands. Sent to me via video, the six demands are listed below:

1. We inmates, at Holman Prison, ask for immediate federal assistance.
2. We ask that the Alabama government release all inmates who have spent excessive time in Holman Prison—due to the conditions of the prison and the overcrowding of these prisons in Alabama.
3. We ask that the 446 laws [Habitual Felony Offender laws] that Alabama holds as of 1975 be abolished.
4. We ask that parole board release all inmates who fit the criteria to be back in society with their families.
5. We ask that these prisons in Alabama implement proper classes that will prepare inmates to be released back into society with 21st century information that will prepare inmates to open and own their own businesses instead of making them having to beg for a job.
6. We also ask for monetary damages for mental pain and physical abuse that inmates have already suffered.

For more information on Alabama's Habitual Felony Offenders Law (their version of the 3 strike laws), read this quick explanation http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2014/06/how_does_alabamas_habitual_off.html

For more information on Alabama's parole process, and how people who are eligible for parole aren't receiving it: http://www.correctionsone.com/alabama/articles/7622296-Study-Parole-probation-issues-keeping-prisons-overcrowded/.

Now nation-wide protests and solidarity actions
on the 23rd of each month:
Coordinated Actions to End Solitary Confinement

https://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com/take-action-2/

Ehrlichman: 'WAR ON DRUGS REALLY 'BOUT BLACKS & HIPPIES'

©2016 **by Mumia Abu-Jamal**

For the youth of today, the name John Ehrlichman rings no bells.

For people who lived through the '60s, it is either famous or notorious. The name references a former high-ranking member of the White House staff, a close aide to former President, Richard M. Nixon, and one of the so-called 'White House plumbers'--men who were at the very heart of the infamous Watergate scandal.

Mumia Abu-Jamal

What makes his name re-ring an old bell is the revelations made some 22 years ago to the magazine, ***Harper's***, where officials spoke openly and honestly about the political machinations underlying the so-called 'War on Drugs' launched by the Nixon administration in the hot midst of the Vietnam War.

According to Ehrlichman, the 'war' was launched as a 'political tool' to attack two radical communities: Blacks and antiwar hippies (the youth of the era). It was a political way of waging attacks on both groups without seeming to do so. And it worked -- splendidly. The "war" allowed cops-armed with this corrupt 'law'-to kick down doors, raid apartments, lock up people-all in the name of 'saving them from the scourge of drugs.

Herr Ehrlichman told Harper's: "Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did."

Now, decades after the press, the courts, the intelligentsia of the nation had signed onto this ignoble, corrupt campaign, the truth emerges. It wasn't about drugs. It never was. It was about Politics.

Mao used to say: "Politics is war without bloodshed." How true those words seem today. For, the wretched 'war on drugs', really a war on the poor, the Black, the radical, the hip, has devastated whole communities, created the Leviathan of the world's largest prison system, and cast countless souls into the hatred-infested holes and netherworlds of prison, probation and death.

The war, still being waged in cities and communities across the nation, was a trick spat by the late, 'Tricky Dick' Nixon, and bought into by state government and police powers, to wreck dark communities-those unwilling to vote Republican, by the way--in the name of the unjust, intrusive, fake 'law'.

That, according to Ehrlichman, was its intent: to "disrupt communities"; communities of resistance to the State.

The war on Drugs was lost before it began, because it was all based on a lie. --_©'16maj

MUMIA NEEDS US AGAIN!
PLEASE CALL, FAX, AND E-MAIL NOW!
Medical Malfeasance and Deliberate Indifference at SCI-Mahanoy are Killing Mumia Abu-Jamal

We are concerned about Mumia's deteriorating health, as has been witnessed in recent weeks by his visiting doctor, clergy, counselors, teachers, family and friends. Evidence of intensifying Hepatitis C symptoms and possible development of the diabetes that nearly killed him a year ago calls for immediate and appropriate treatment. We, therefore, urge you to,

DEMAND

Immediate provision to Mumia of anti-viral treatment to cure his Hepatitis C condition that is, as his doctor testified in court, the persistent cause of worsening skin disease, almost certain liver damage, now extreme weight-gain and hunger, and other diabetic-like conditions.

Immediate release of all recent blood test results to Mumia's attorneys.

Vigilant monitoring of Mumia for signs of diabetes, especially of his blood sugar level, since a diabetes attack nearly killed Mumia last Spring of 2015.

PHONE, FAX, AND E-MAIL THESE DEMANDS TO:

PA. GOVERNOR TOM WOLF
Phone: 717-787-2500
Fax: 717-772-8284
E-mail: <http://www.governor.pa.gov/contact/Pages/contact.aspx>.

PA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, SECRETARY, JOHN WETZEL
Phone: 717-728-2573, 717 787 2500
E-mail: ra-contactdoc@pa.gov

MAHANOY PRISON, SUPERINTENDENT, Theresa DelBalso
Phone: 570-773-2158

(You have to be transferred to her secretary, and she refuses to give out the fax number or e-mail for the Superintendent. Not surprising, given that this new superintendent has a very heavy military background).

Sponsored by: International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, MOVE, Educators for Mumia, Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC), Campaign to Bring Mumia Home, International Action Center.

Last year, ARA-LA participated in "Friends of the MST," and helped bring a militant from the Brazilian Landless Rural Workers Movement to Los Angeles, to lay the basis of on-going relationships between grassroots community, labor and left groups and the socially and politically advanced Brazilians. Brazil has the largest African-descent population outside the continent, is part of the BRICS anti-neo-liberal alliance of developing countries and of the "pink tide" of social-democratic governments in Latin America that are now the focus of a concerted imperialist counter-offensive by the US. ***Turning The Tide*** is printing here an array of perspectives on the developing situation in Brazil, where massive right-wing protests based mostly in European-descent and more well-to-do sectors of Brazilian society are seeking to impeach the Workers Party president, ex-political prisoner Dilma Rousseff, possibly before the August Olympics are held in Rio, even though the PT government has generally allowed multinationals like Monsanto free reign, has until just recently participated in the UN occupation of Haiti, and is seeking US security cooperation for the Olympics.--***Editor***

FOCUS ON BRAZIL

Brazil's Democracy & a Return to the Senzala

by Bruno De Oliveira, BrasilWire (Excerpts)

Lula da Silva is placed at the disposal of justice. A police apparatus was set up to coerce the former president to testify under the cross-hairs of the mainstream media, ***Globo***, which supported the 1964 Coup and subsequent dictatorship.

The operation "Car Wash" (Lava Jato) move to force Lula to testify was leaked to ***Globo TV*** beforehand so their helicopter could hover over the former president's house before the federal police arrived. During the night, Epoca magazine (which belongs to ***Globo***) happily tweeted about the actions that would take place the following morning. This was a sign of the media's power to manipulate public opinion with a noticeable coup-driven agenda. Federal judge Sérgio Moro has become the high-profile face of the campaign against the Workers Party (PT), Rousseff and Lula. It's a political move to stop the former president from running for the presidency again.

Brazil is experiencing the return of an old ghost which haunts its cultural, social and political life - the conflict between the Casa Grande (master's colonial mansion) and the Senzala (slaves quarters). Sociologist Gilberto Freyre presented the importance of the relationship between the Casa Grande and the Senzala in Brazilian social-cultural reproduction. The architecture of the Casa Grande expresses Brazil's form of social organisation and political system. Politics was traditionally only a domain for the Casa Grande. Brazilian's corporate media, especially ***Globo***, has supported that cultural perspective for generations. The Brazilian political crisis is fueled by predominantly white upper-middle class attitudes towards predominantly black working-class and its access to redistributive social welfare programs.

This powerful press chooses the heroes and villains, designating public enemies from its class opponents. It creates the defendants and supports the judges who say that penalties should be applied regardless of the legal apparatus because they can always twist the law.

2008-2014 marked the best period in Brazilian history. Inflation ranged between 4.31-6.50%, considered optimum for an economy. The unemployment rate in 2014 was 4.8%, the lowest ever recorded. The PT passed laws requiring that 50% of all students enrolled at public universities are from low-income backgrounds and primarily Afro-Brazilian, in accordance with their representation in the population. Before PT took office, this percentage hovered around 5%. Brazil's foreign reserves are still 10 times higher than they were before PT took office. However, the mainstream media is designed to cover up or even fabricate news.

Contrasting headlines in corporate Brazilian press: Brazil takes streets against Lula & Dilma (the right); Allies of Dilma & Lula hold demonstrations (the left).

Dilma's administration raised the minimum wage to R$880 for 2016. This represents a real increase of 77% since 2003 and will inject R$57 billion into the economy.

The reactionary singsong of the media is one of its instruments of manipulation. A democracy in Brazil needs to be controlled and validated by ***Globo*** or it is not a democracy. ***Globo*** has a long and dirty history when it come to defending its political interests against regimes that enacted strong minimum wage policies and continued its tradition against Lula and Dilma.

Ranciere (2001) notes that, "democracy is a term invented by its opponents, by all those who were 'qualified' to govern because of seniority, birth, wealth, virtue, and knowledge ... using it as a term of derision, Before designating the name of a community, Demos was the name of one part of the community: namely, the poor.

See: "Senzala," p. 6

A Brief Look at Brazilian Social Movements

by Brian Mier, BrasilWire (Excerpts)

As violence against social movements increases and their criminalization in the media and judiciary intensifies, it's time to take a closer look at who these movements are and what they're doing.

During the 70s, as Brazil suffered under a US-backed neofascist military dictatorship, liberation theology factions in the Catholic Church created political organizing groups, called ecclesiastic base communities, in poor villages and slums. Using tools developed by Paulo Freire, and influenced by Marxism, the priests and nuns began to develop local leaders and organize exchanges at the local, regional and national level. The role liberation theologians played, from the final years of the dictatorship until their censure by the Church hierarchy, was fundamental in the formation of the poor people's social movements. These movements played an important part in creating one of world's most progressive constitutions, as well as in the formation of the PT (Workers Party), and the elections and re-elections of Lula Inacio da Silva and Dilma Rousseff.

The Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Terra, or MST (the Landless Rural Workers' Movement), was created in 1984 to address inequalities in rural areas (caused by 500 years of monoculture) by fighting for agrarian reform, collectively squatting on and farming unproductive land under the slogan "Occupy, Resist, Produce." Due mainly to its efforts, this practice is considered legal under the 1988 Constitution (although the Constitution is frequently ignored by local governments and the judiciary in Brazil).

Left, labor and popular movements protest against austerity measures in Brazil, April 2015.

Over its first 16 years, the MST established small farms for 250,000 affiliated families. During the Lula presidency, the MST began to shift focus, slowing the number of land occupations and consolidating democratic community control over 100s of villages spread across 23 states. Lula increased educational funding for agrarian-reform village residents by over 500%, funding adult literacy and teacher training programs (in partnership with public universities) so they could staff, manage and develop curricula for the public schools in their villages. 1000s of MST members are studying at public universities, producing high-quality research, and many local schools in MST villages are staffed entirely by movement members.

MST strengthened its relationship with the Via Campesina International Peasants' Movement, engaging in political organizing work in countries around the developing world and coordinating large protests against mining and agribusiness multinationals like Vale and Cargill. The MST doesn't have a single leader, but operates according to a democratic structure in which pairs of male and female representatives, chosen at the family cluster, village, regional and state levels, serve two-year terms and can be removed from above or below any time their work is not deemed satisfactory, with the 23 pairs of state-level representatives serving as national directors.

The MST also has close relations with the Central Única dos Trabalhadores (CUT) labor federation, the governments of Cuba, Venezuela and Bolivia, among others, and has adopted a policy of critical engagement with the PT. The MST generally supports the PT in elections, as in most recently the re-election of Dilma Rousseff, but protests various elements of government policy that it disagrees with, especially government support for agribusiness, which has grown under Rousseff's second administration. The government subsidizes social movements' autonomous construction of around 20,000 housing units per year.

See: "Social Movements," p. 6

Brazil, US hold joint exercises for Rio Olympic security

from Xinhua Chinese News Agency

The Brazilian navy began a series of joint exercises with its US counterpart in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday as part of preparations for the Olympic Games in August.

In the Guanabara Bay, the two sides carried out a simulated rescue of a ship seized by mock terrorists, near where the Olympic Games' sailing event will take place.

Brazilian and American marines used a diving support vessel as the target for the simulated hijacking, with two rapid response boats and a helicopter used to board the ship.

"Our training will cover firing, closed space combat, first aid, communications and boarding ships," said Brazilian captain Luis Guilherme Rabello, in charge of the operation, during the presentation of the exercise.

Navy forces from both countries will work together until mid-April to increase the preparation of Brazilian security forces ahead of the Olympic Games, while agents from other bodies will also take part.

According to Rabello, given an increase in terrorist attacks around the world in recent months, security officials at the Olympic Games have decided to include the profiling of these attacks in their training and planning.

Fighting Gentrification, One Building at a Time

Inside Brazil's Autonomous Housing Movement

by Caroline Barrueco, BrasilWire (Excerpts)

The center of São Paulo mainly comprises commercial, office and abandoned buildings. Most of those who work there can't afford the rent of the flats downtown, so they must travel to and from the outskirts, a trip that lasts about two hours. São Paulo is a city of 17 million inhabitants.

Gentrification is usually considered to be the urban movement that happens when an area inhabited by people on low income, is "discovered" by the middle class. But it can also happen when properties increase in value through speculation; this is mostly the case in São Paulo, the owners leave properties empty hoping their value will rise.

The neighborhood is soon seen as a point of economic potential and new establishments appear seeking to fulfill the needs of this new wave of people. The cost of living tends to increase and become impractical for the initial residents, who then find themselves impelled to seek new homes, usually in peripheral areas of the city. Price appreciation of property rental is the main reason for the migration of low-income residents to the outskirts.

So how to proceed if the population can neither afford to pay the high property values nor want to live in remote areas, usually with less access and infrastructure? Professor of Architecture and Urbanism Erminia Maricato says that "the proximity of the low income population is the most important antidote to real estate speculation." Poor people standing their ground, in other words.

The most effective and immediate resistance is from the Brazilian Autonomous Housing Movement. The FLM – Front in the Struggle for Housing, created in 2003, is analogous to the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST), but acts in urban areas. Today there are approximately 80,000 members. The movement maps abandoned properties downtown and systematically occupies them. Besides FLM there are some other autonomous partnering groups who work in the same way such as MTST – Homeless Workers Movement and MSTC – The Homeless of the Center Movement.

The vast majority in these movements are people who work down town but have been pushed to the peripheral areas. Differing from European squats, which are formed mainly by the artistic community and by people who purposely put themselves in the margin of the capitalist system, Brazilian squats are formed by families of low-income workers, and immigrants who want to establish themselves in the country. Today there are over 60 buildings occupied, in the central region of São Paulo alone.

A few years ago I learned a new building would be occupied, and volunteered to be part of the group that first entered. The first 48 hours are crucial: it is when occupants are most vulnerable, because the police can enter the building if they obtain authorization from the owner to do so. After two days occupants can only be evicted under a court mandate, which occurs if the owner appeals to court

See: "Gentrification," p. 6

APRIL 23, 2016 ALL OUT ATL

STOP THE KLAN - DISRUPT WHITE POWER ORGANIZING ON STONE MOUNTAIN

On April 23rd, the Ku Klux Klan and white nationalists are holding a white power march on Stone Mountain. On the same evening, a racist concert gathering will be held at a yet to be disclosed location. We are coordinating a mass gathering on Stone Mountain to shut down the march and disrupt further white supremacist efforts.

We are mobilizing locally and nationally for a show of anti-racist power on April 23rd at Stone Mountain. Our gathering time and location will be announced closer to the date—keep an eye out for updates.

OUR PRINCIPLES ARE:

1. Our solidarity is grounded in a shared opposition to white supremacy. In our coordinating efforts, we will not tolerate behavior that perpetuates the oppression of marginalized people.

2. Police, politicians, and government authorities will not solve the problem of racism for us. We must rely on ourselves and one another to end white supremacy. We support grassroots, anti-racist coordination in our communities, workplaces, and on the streets.

3. We aim to create a culture of trust, solidarity, and support in our mobilization. We recognize that participants have different ideas, abilities, and perspectives on how to best obstruct white supremacist efforts. Our opposition will be stronger if we understand the diversity of our perspectives and strategies as an asset.

4. The diversity of our movement means that no one person can speak on behalf of all participants in the actions against white supremacy. Similarly, no person can decide the actions someone else should take. Coherent and effective efforts against racism must also include a consciousness of how our actions impact those most vulnerable and at-risk among us.

STONE MOUNTAIN, GA

For thousands of years, Stone Mountain has been a place of ceremonial and administrative importance to the Creek Nation and once served as a neutral zone for the Creek and Cherokee Nations to meet, coordinate, and offer each other help from colonial invaders. In 1821, under the Treaty of Indian Springs, the U.S. Government and State of Georgia seized the mountain from the Creek Nation and in 1845, with the protection of the State of Georgia, the new town of Stone Mountain was settled by whites. Beginning early in the twentieth century, the second incarnation of the Ku Klux Klan, inspired by the film *Birth of a Nation*, began using Stone Mountain as a meeting place and hub of white supremacist activity.

Today, Stone Mountain is a national park located in the city of Stone Mountain, GA, and has been state owned since 1958. Despite this, its long history as a site of organization and of symbolic importance for white nationalists continues. Legally, the mountain is a confederate monument, and is marked by a massive carving of Confederate generals — an effort first initiated by a Klan member and later completed by the state to combat the civil rights movement. For over a century, the KKK has held rallies and meetings at the mountain. Last year, in the aftermath of the mass shooting at a black church in Charleston, SC, Neo-Confederates rallied at Stone Mountain in support of the Confederate symbols.

The following groups endorse the All Out ATL mobilization:
Atlanta Industrial Workers of the World Atlanta Ultras Black Rose North Georgia
Bombs Away Collective (Athens) Charlotte Showing Up for Racial Justice (NC)
Food Not Bombs Atlanta High Roller Records (AL) Panhandle Progressive Coalition (FL) Savannah Comrades

Please get in contact if your organization agrees with our principles and would like to be added as an endorser.

https://alloutatl.com/
https://www.facebook.com/events/965525166818640/

100X100 Campaign to Build *Turning the Tide*

Over its 26+ year publishing history, ***TTT*** has been published in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we print four 8-page issues a year. Now, to restore bi-monthly publication, we have launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed **"100X100."**

We need 100 people who will donate $100 a year, or $10/mo, for ***TTT*** to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing nearly 2000 copies of each issue into the prisons.

Turning the Tide doesn't print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps; their contribution more often comes by writing articles, letters and poems or sending in drawings. Often, they pass the copy of ***TTT*** that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners.**Prisoners, if you can find donors or subscribers outside prison to subsidize your sub, that would help a lot**.

Postage costs for a single issue of TTT are almost $1000 and climbing. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, Twitter followers, and email contacts. The future of ***Turning the Tide*** is in your hands. Now, while you're thinking about it, go to:

http://gofundme.com/eugzgg

and donate. Then share it with your contacts. With your help, ***Turning the Tide*** can step up to the "urgency of now" -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, colonialism, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible.

If you think ***TTT*** is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to:

Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.

Contribute to antifa prisoner Jason Hammond's release fund!

Jason's release date [from Illinois's Vandalia Correctional Center] is currently set for April 13th, 2016! That means he is less than a month away from being back with his friends and family and pick up life where he left off. As of right now we know that he will be on house arrest for some time, he is not sure for how long or what the movement restrictions are going to look like. As many of you know the transition from prison to real life can be tough for many, so in order to ease the stress this page is now Jason's release fund. The money that you all graciously donate from now on will help Jason with getting a phone to be in contact with his PO officer, food, rent, any fees for classes he might be mandated to take, clothes…etc. Thank you so much for your continued support and love! More updates coming soon!!

Jason Hammond, Jeremy's twin brother, accepted a non-cooperating guilty plea and was sentenced to 41 months in prison on January 2015 for his part in an organized direct action taken against a group of white supremacists.

In 2012, a group of racists and white supremacists organized a 'White Nationalist Economic Summit' in the Chicago suburb of Tinley Park. Groups of anti-fascists and anti-racists from the Midwest decided to confront the meeting and successfully shut down their event through a righteous melee. In the aftermath, 5 people were arrested and were dubbed the Tinley Park 5. All five were sentenced to upwards of 3 years and have since been released. Jason is the last person to have been arrested for this action.

Please read Jason Hammond's sentencing statement for his thoughts and feelings about the situation here: https://freejeremy.net/2015/01/22/jason-hammond-sentencing-statement/, as well as Jeremy's statement on his brother's sentencing here: https://freejeremy.net/2015/01/22/jeremy-hammonds-statement-on-the-plea-and-sentencing-of-his-brother-jason-hammond/.

Donate here: https://fundrazr.com/0w0Ma?ref=ab_55X4Y3

DEFEND ANAHEIM ANTI-KLAN PROTESTERS!

In Anaheim in February, a Ku Klux Klan rally was met with resistance from local residents and anti-fascists. The KKK responded with stabbings; at least three counter-protesters against the Klan were wounded, and the Klansmen and nazis were beaten down and chased away. Cops made several arrests, but dropped the charges against the KKK members they did arrest, while letting others armed with knives walk away, arresting the victims instead. You can donate to support the anti-Klan protesters and help meet legal and medical expenses at https://fundrazr.com/d16d89?ref=ab_55X4Y3

This unequal treatment of Klan and anti-KKK protesters is one reason we chant "Blue by Day, White by Night." It is a systematic pattern. For example, William Celli, the dedicated Trump-supporter arrested in northern CA for building a homemade bomb intended for bombing a mosque, received a mere 90 days in jail, 3 years probation and a ban from Facebook after taking a plea deal. Celli was caught with homemade explosives in his home after an anonymous call came into the police. His entire neighborhood had to be evacuated due to the bomb squad being called in to detonate the explosives. Previously Celli was witnessed threatening to "kill you all" to the Islamic Society of West Contra Costa County and made several posts on his Facebook regarding his hatred of Muslims. Celli's initial charges included a hate crime, but the plea bargain resulted in only one charge, violating the free exercise of civil rights, for which he has to take anger management courses, has 3 years of probation, and can't have a Facebook page. Compare that to the Muslims who have been entrapped by the FBI into alleged bomb plots and sentenced to long federal prison terms.

URGENT APPEAL

We need your financial support to continue sending the paper free to nearly 1800 prisoners around CA and the US.

PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

$20 a year payable only to Anti-Racist Action
at P.O. Box 1055 in Culver City 90232

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **St:** ___ **Zip:** _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

If you're a prisoner and can send stamps or get someone outside the walls to subsidize your subscription, please do so. If you work with an info shop or other zine or record distro, please consider ordering a bundle of TTT to distribute; $5 will get you 20 copies.

If you live in L.A. or nearby, we can come to house meetings to speak and collect donations for the paper. Email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH BEYONCE & KENDRICK LAMAR?

by Black Riders Liberation Party Minister of Public Relations E Da Ref

Point A of The Black Commune Program (updated 10 point platform) states that "We ride for total liberation. We ride for POWER to take full control of the Black community.' In order to gain real power is to collectively come to a common understanding of what exactly power is. Power is the ability to define phenomenon and make it act in a desired manner. Rather the phenomenon is politics, culture, entertainment or whatever; it must be used to free our minds body and spirit. Total liberation and self-determination must be promoted on a grand scale. Revolution must become a social norm. All our priorities in life should be centered on the liberation of Black people. It should be the topic of discussion at hair salons, barbershops, cafes and dinner tables. In the era of all the distractions, the illusion of inclusion, chaos and confusion; we must utilize every avenue to raise revolutionary consciousness. We are at war for the hearts and minds of the people.

All eyes are on the Black Panthers, and expressions of Black Power are being displayed on mainstream media. Everyone is talking about Beyoncé's performance during the Super Bowl halftime show, where she and her dancers were dressed as Black Panthers performing her song "formation", (which in her music video there are some subliminal anti police terror messages). Beyonce and her dancers also formed into a "X" formation in honor of Revolutionary Minister Malcolm X . At the end of her performance some of her dancers took a picture with the sign saying "Justice for Mario Woods" (a brother who was shot and killed by the San Francisco Pigs). She has received repressive backlash in response to the performance, from the right wing media and police enforcement agencies. Pig departments in New York and Florida threatened to boycott their labor and refuse to work at Beyoncé's shows. Various Black Nationalist formations have offered security services in support. Rumors are resurfacing about her and Jay-Z bailing out protesters in Baltimore during the Freddy Grey rebellions. Beyoncé is from Houston. TX. The same state where We, the Black Riders Liberation Party along with the Huey P Newton Gun Club, marched on the state capitol, armed with shotguns and High powered Assault Rifles; to Advocate Armed self-defense against police terrorism. It would be damn near impossible to think that this action didn't inspire and influence her aspiration to display the imagery of The Black Panther Party.

The match is lit, and fiery fervor of freedom fighting flavor set ablaze the stage at the Grammy Awards with Kendrick Lamar's performance. He showcased a display in the form of theatre portraying prisoners as the modern day slaves bound and shackled in chains. Wearing the same prison attire looking similar to what The Great General George Jackson and the Soledad Brothers wore, he painted a picture of the prison industrial complex and brought the reality of it being modern day slavery from on the stage in front of thousands of peoples, right through the TV into your living room.

Then in the other half of the performance, he displayed in form of theater portraying the breaking of the chains and reconstructing the practice of traditional African culture that Europeans have stolen (and still are stealing) from us. He also showed a gigantic picture of Africa with Compton wrote on the inside to show the historic connection with Black People and Africa. From the dance, to the art and music; this is all spiritually connected. It's bigger than just self-expression, it's a story of struggle fused with the science of vibration that has the power to invoke the rebellious spirit of our ancestors within our people.

The Black Riders Liberation Party was created by General T.A.C.O and other former Bloods and Crips, in Kendrick Lamar's hometown of South Central L.A, all through areas like Compton, Watts and Inglewood. Historically dubbed, "The Red Zone' by The OG Black Panthers largely because the high level hostility from the pigs in L.A where they suffered the most Black Panther casualties in martyrdom. The very place where the 1st S.W.A.T team was ever deployed at the Black Panthers headquarters during a 5 hour shoot-out on 41st and Central Avenue. It also became the "Red Zone" for the Black Riders when General T.A.C.O. and other comrades, marched inside the 108th police station in the year 2000 and defended themselves against the pigs. This bloody battle resulted in General T.A.C.O. being arrested for assault on two police officers, but eventually the case was dismissed. And it is also the home of the Bloods and Crips in which the unification of these street formations is the foundation of how the Black Riders Liberation Party started, right within the prison industrial complex.

It is not a coincidence that Kendrick Illustrated on stage images promoting prison abolition to make a political statement during his performance on such a public platform like at the Grammy Awards show. The Black Riders L.A. Chapter have run into Kendrick Lamar in the streets of L.A on numerous occasions where he was given issues of our newspaper, The African Inter-Communal News Service. All the consciousness we've raised on the streets of LA for 20 years, bringing Bloods and Crips together to ride for Black Liberation, developing a nationwide prison chapter pushing the line for prison abolition; there's no doubt in our mind that he was somehow inspired by work and actions of the Black Riders Liberation Party – New Generation Black Panther Party for Self Defense.

Among the circles of the enlightened, lies a common understanding of revolutionary cultural appropriation used to co-opt the struggle. However, we cannot underestimate the influence of our work. The Mainstream artist and entertainers keep their ear to the street to pick up on what the next hot idea may be. And the ruling elite finds a way to corporatize and commercialize our culture; tearing away the authentic and aesthetic fabric of our soul and spirit that we as African people put in our craft.

So we must continue to keep our boots to the pavement and bombard the masses with REAL BLACK POWER! Culture is a weapon. The culture must be about the gun, the knife, the spear, the shield, and the fight for freedom. It is up to us to preserve our culture by setting an example of the correct representation of revolution through action, so the people will know it's not enough to just dress, look like, and talk like a revolutionary; but you must become a revolutionary to survive and struggle against genocide and extermination of Black people.

We must be the influence and not fall under the influence of the neocolonial bourgeois puppet aristocracy. If we keep up the good work and stay focused, these entertainers will be forced to at least speak out on the inhumane conditions that we as oppressed people are subjected to, and at the most advocate revolutionary armed struggle, due to the repressive backlash of fascism, which will back them into the corners of the ghetto colonies where the culture dwells and where Black Panthers are being created to strike back at white supremacy. The clash between the oppressed and the oppressor is inevitable. The outcome of all of this sensation is really up to us. If we don't take advantage of this surge of aspiration for information about the struggle for liberation and self-determination, then the capitalist elite ruling class will. Whatever curveball is thrown at us to co-opt, corporatize and commercialize the culture of revolution, will backfire on the enemy like a broken muffler on a car. We have nothing to lose but our chains and we will win for revolution; complete constructive, change!!!

BLACK POWER!! ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!!

Free Black People in Flint, Michigan

On January 22, 2016 and again on February 20, 2016, the Black Riders Liberation Party's Detroit Chapter delivered 1675+ gallons of water donated to the people of Flint, Michigan, where there is a water contamination crisis. Over half of the city of Flint's population is people of African descent.

The water in Flint is polluted with so many toxic chemicals; the people can't drink it, bathe in it, cook, or clean with it. This is a Human Rights violation! The act of neglect by the US Government not fixing this crisis is an act of Chemical Biological Warfare on the Black community! "Ten people have died from legionnaires disease as well as from high levels of lead poisoning of our brothers and sisters out here," reports Comrade Shamita. There is no way that any area surrounded by the Great Lakes region of Michigan, (which has fresh water in abundance) should not have access to clean water!

The Black Commune Program (updated 10 point platform of OG BPP) Article L states:

"We Ride for an end to environmental racism and to stop the destruction of Earths Ecological Balance. We Ride because we believe that Amerikkkan Industrial Production has and is currently creating terrible environmental side effects locally, nationally and internationally, especially where Black People live. Industrial Production causes pollution of Air, Land and Water, which in turn lowers the life expectancy of people. If the racist U.S Industrialists refuse to do so, then his industry should be taken and placed in the Black Community so we can protect the environment and our own people."

We dropped off cases of water at a senior citizens home, as well as some Women & Children's transitional homes. We also had a chance to hear the voices of the people of

Flint up close and personal. "We found out that certain parts of Flint have a wood piping infrastructure for the water system. That's Messed up," reported Comrade Kofi.

Not too long before this mission, Black Riders' National Minister of Defense King Samir Shabazz gave a step by step tutorial about how to purify and filter water on the Black Survival and General Civilization Class Series, on Do the knowledge Radio channel of Blogtalkradio.com. This was a national cadre effort to put this together. Shout out to all those who participated. Thanks to all those who supported and donated to this project. Shout out to Read Yo Radio for documenting this moment in history. And Shout out to New Era Detroit for the inspiration setting an example in action by serving the people of Flint Michigan. Shout out to Sister Comrade Jackie Stevenson for helping put together both projects and traveling all the way from the New York Chapter to Flint, Michigan to help pass out water. **RBG 4 LIFE! FREE FLINT!**

Note: On. Feb. 28, 2016, the Black Riders L.A. chapter held a free food giveaway to Black men, women and children to meet the immediate needs and desires of oppressed people.

Black Power! All Power to the People!

SENZALA

...Continued from p. 3

The 'poor,' designates the category of people who do not count, those who have no qualifications for being taken into account (p.123)"

Hence the elite need to demonize the popular organizations on the left and their icons, demoralising them as much as possible.

The political strategy to push the middle class to defend the interests of the elites is always the same: throw leftist leaders into the mass grave of corruption where capitalism feasts.

Globo is manufacturing consent to increase bias and destabilise a country that has made significant gains against social inequality. But the key point for now is that the right to govern is about to be taken away from the descendants of the Senzala.

Bruno De Oliveira is a Ph.D. student at the University of Brighton. His research is based on analyzing the life experience of homeless people through participatory research.

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

...Continued from p. 3

According to program guidelines, the deeds to these properties are automatically registered in the name of the woman of the household.

In 2015, the MST, other social movements like the Homeless Workers' Movement (MTST), and the CUT and Central dos Trabalhadores e Trabalhadoras do Brasil labor union federations, protested a congressional bill that would increase companies' ability to outsource, and against austerity measures proposed by Rousseff's neo-liberal finance minister, Joaquim Levy. The protesters were attacked by police in front of the Federal Congress building and several were hospitalized.

The MST supports socialism, favoring construction by means of Gramscian counterhegemony over armed revolt as a strategy for achieving this. They still support the PT because, although they value the criticism raised by left parties such as the PSOL (Socialism & Freedom Party) and PSTU (United Socialist Workers' Party), they don't see them as capable of gaining electoral power.

On the other hand, how does the movements' public support for a political party that has been in power for 13 years and been involved in a series of corruption scandals, affect the ability to mobilize naturally rebellious young people in the movements?

Membership in the social movement leadership and rank and file is aging and with the surge of evangelical Christianity among the poor, the weakened ecclesiastical base communities are no longer capable of introducing large numbers of young people into the movements. One of the biggest challenges that the MST and other social movements face is how to mobilize youth in the struggle for agrarian and urban reform. In the current shifting political climate, it will be interesting to see if and how they meet this challenge.

Original version of this article published at CEPR.

FIGHTING GENTRIFICATION IN BRAZIL

...Continued from p. 3

with a request for repossession of the property, this is often a lengthy a complex process.

The night when we went to occupy the building, it seemed that no one knew exactly where they were going or what the history of the place was. In single file, we ran down a dark downtown alley, some people broke down a door. It was a direct and efficient response to the effects of gentrification.

The 'Right to the City' concept that was developed in the book "Le droit à la ville" published in 1968 by the French philosopher Henri Lefebvre, is in fact a part of the Brazilian law guides.

The housing movements are enforcing the law. And they are very careful in doing so. A few hours after entering the building, the movement's leaders (yes there is a clear hierarchy within the movement, another difference between these and the European squats) soon organized to collect all the small objects found within the old hotel, and lock them up in a room to make sure no one would take ownership of unrelated objects. In general you can not enter the occupation after 11 pm and alcoholic beverages are prohibited. There are several rules that besides trying to guarantee a good relationship between neighbors, legally protect the act of occupying and their supporters.

In addition to quickly "resolve" the issue of having a place to live, the housing movements wants to pressure public bodies, about creating an efficient program for affordable housing.

The city mayor Fernando Haddad indeed listened to their claim, and in October of this year put into effect a progressive Property Tax amendment, (Emenda do IPTU Progressivo) which aims to transform abandoned buildings of the city center into affordable housing. Here is how it works: the owners of properties that have more than 60% of its area without function will be notified by the city. If within a year the property still has no social function, the tax levied on the property begins to gradually increase until by the seventh year of abandonment, the property passes to a cost 20% of its gross value in taxes, and can finally be bought by the city to be transformed into housing.

"In the broad area of São João avenue where the plan aims to repopulate, there are located 24 of the 78 properties that will be reported in the first wave, there are certainly empty buildings which are not fulfilling their mission. Unhappy owners can attempt to fight in court. From their perspective, even if they may be using their properties in such a way that has an adverse effect on the city, the expectation of future profits -or what is called "speculation" – is what matters " explains the urban planner Raquel Rolnik on her blog.

The Right to the City of Lefebvre, would not only be the right to housing, but the right to live in the city and enjoy it:

Currently the center of Sao Paulo is not exactly an 'enjoyable' area. With virtually no public places to hang out, and a total absence of squares or wooded areas, it is difficult to use the city as a place to exchange experiences.

There are some policies that are trying to change that, for example, encouraging the construction of Parklets – living areas that occupy the place of one or two car spaces, but it turns out that living in public spaces is not part of the culture or lives of the residents of the center.

For around 5 years now, some collectives such as Voodoohop, Parque Augusta and Anhangabahoots have been encouraging temporary occupations, parties in public spaces and inside squats. These parties have attracted many people, bringing attention to abandoned parks or previously unknown places.

With that, people are starting to feel like the city is theirs, and maybe even feel responsible for it.

"We are reactivating this spontaneous potential to occupy the city. The party as a meeting of all the arts, of living experience, not as a repetition of a formula " says Laura Diaz, producer of Mamba Negra, an offshoot party from the Voodoohop collective. "This movement of people going back to squares and public spaces in areas they previously had a degraded image of, is a gain for the city, the problem is that soon the market takes it and transforms everything into brands and consumption. Local markets also raise prices, trying to gain an advantage from it"

From this new demand that the city is creating, private initiatives are filling the gap left by the city management, such as the Citybikes in São Paulo which are run by corporations. And these brands are aimed at the potential customers of the middle-class audience, again marginalizing the other residents.

So people that are organizing those occupations in the city are experiencing these kind of issues, how to be an itinerant movement, present the possibility of resumption of the city as a spontaneous meeting point, without consuming the place as a product and without starting a gentrifying movement that eventually harasses the residents of their own neighborhoods?

"If we are upset about this, we need to change some of our attitudes, find ways to transcend the "party" and use that act in a more combative form, see this moment as a libertarian experience. But this all depends on what we propose, the place we choose and especially those with whom we do it," says Laura Diaz

These issues are quite complex and we can not be sure of the consequences of our choices. To be open to meetings and to know where one is and what is going on in that place, is the untransferable responsibility of each of us.

Cities are constantly changing, and we can all be agents of change in what we wish to happen. Attitudes like these movements struggling for housing and temporary occupation of the city are helping to turn São Paulo into a more "livable" city, almost pleasant, and also pressing the government to take public policy attitudes.

And this has also begun to be noticed by the authorities: after about four years of making free parties in the centre, completely autonomously, since 2013, Voodoohop began a partnership with the city government to produce SP NA RUA (Video), a festival that happens over one night, and brings together over 15 party collectives, to provide a completely open and free festival in the streets of the old city.

When people show themselves it gets harder to ignore them. São Paulo has a clear message: if rents are expensive, we occupy abandoned buildings, if we do not have parks, we picnic on the asphalt.

Caroline Barrueco is a São Paulo based Brazilian writer. science & civil disobedience enthusiast.

THE MOVEMENT INSIDE TEXAS PRISONS WILL NOT BE COMPLETE UNTIL THE SISTERS JOIN!

By: Keith 'Malik' Washington (Excerpts) http://comrademalik.com/2016/02/10/the-movement-inside-texas-prisons-will-not-be-complete-until-the-sisters-join/

Revolutionary Greetings Comrades! This one right here is for the sisters! The Black, Latina, White, Asian, Arab, Lesbian, Straight, and Transgender Sisters, who have found themselves trapped inside these slave camps and gulags operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. I spend countless hours reading and scanning alternative newspapers, journals, and magazines that provide a platform for prisoners who write. I read the San Francisco Bay View every month, and although I see lots of pen-pal ads coming out of Gatesville, Texas, I don't see many revolutionary essays or articles being written by female Texas prisoners!!

I know you all can't be content with the conditions you are being housed under, and I know for a fact, you are not being given the dignity and respect you deserve. So I must ask: "Why aren't we hearing from you?!" Please listen to me; these folks got us up in here workin' for FREE! Then to add insult to injury, they have set-up this fake-ass Good-Time and Work-Time Credit System that is not getting us back our families any earlier! Now I know some of you are tired of hearing your babies say: "Mommy, when you comin' home, we miss you?!!"

There is something you can do to control your own destiny.

The New Afrikan Black Panther Party (Prison Chapter) in Texas has helped initiate a campaign which is focused on Ending Prison Slavery in Texas!! From the very beginning I told my support network that there is no way that this campaign could be successful by just calling on men who are incarcerated in Texas – NO! That wouldn't work!! I have been motivated by the work of Laura Whitehorn, Victoria Law, Safiyya Bukhari, Angela Y. Davis, and Assata Shakur!! I know our sisters in Texas have something meaningful to contribute to this struggle.

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT KATHY GRIFFIN?!

She came from humble beginnings growing up in rural Mississippi – Heidelberg I believe.

She had, and still has natural gifts; beauty, intelligence, and musical talents. Her father Ed Townsend, penned the smash hit "Let's Get It On," made famous by superstar Marvin Gaye. She came to Houston to attend college at Texas Southern University. She got introduced to the "Fast-Life," fast money, fast cars, and drugs that take you down the wrong path fast! She became easy prey for those engaged in human trafficking! Before she knew what was happening, her world had spun out of control and she was headed down the road in a "Blue Bird" serving time inside a prison unit operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Many people marvel at the fact that I know so much about her. But, I have news for you, the story is not over, in fact it's just begun. You see, Kathy Griffin-Grinin has overcome tremendous obstacles to become a leading voice in the fight against Human Trafficking! Pimps beware, the "game" done changed!

Kathy did a few years in TDCJ and got the attention of some key individuals who gave her a second chance. Kathy never was the type to look a gift-horse in the mouth. She grabbed a hold of her "Hope Shot" and never turned back! Former Houston City Councilman Jarvis Johnson and current Texas Representative Dr. Alva Allen believed in Kathy. Kathy got a job volunteering at the Harris County Jail, one of the largest county jails in the U.S. Kathy helped girls just like herself that had been subdued by the "Street Life." Slowly Kathy earned the respect of the new Sheriff Adrian Garcia. Sheriff Garcia saw something special in this woman who used to be addicted to drugs and alcohol. Kathy came up with a reentry program for women who were victims of human trafficking. Houston, Texas is a hub for those trapped in the bondage that is Human Trafficking – Prostitution, Drugs and Crime, all salient topics when discussing this subject.

Kathy went from being a volunteer at the jail to an employee, and then on to become the program's eventual director of "Been There Done That!"(*) Kathy's program is one of the first of its kind in the nation! A program that helps women to reclaim their worth and restores them to the place in society they should be. Never to be one that rests on her laurels, Kathy became an out-spoken prisoner rights advocate. It wasn't long before Kathy got the attention of one of the most famous and successful prisoner rights advocates in Texas. ***See "Sisters," p. 7***

(*) Reentry program for victims of Human Trafficking!

PRISON "SECURITY/WELFARE CHECKS" SLEEP SURVEY

Who we are: The Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition (PHSS) originated in the SF Bay Area in 2011 to amplify the voices of CA prisoners on hunger strike striving to achieve their Five Core Human Rights Demands. It is made up of family members and loved ones, formerly incarcerated people, grassroots organizations, lawyers, and individuals. The coalition continues to work in solidarity with CA prisoners and their families to end the torture that is solitary confinement.

Why we are conducting this survey:

Beginning as early as 2013, many prisoners throughout the CA prison system - housed in SHU's, AdSeg and on death row - have reported guards doing "security/welfare checks" every 30 minutes, 48 times a day. We've been told that the start dates of these checks have varied at different prisons. Some prisoners say the checks are extremely noisy and disruptive, result in denial of sleep, and cause harmful side effects. We wish to document what is occurring in the various solitary units throughout CA prisons with regard to "security/welfare checks."

Please respond in writing to the questions on the survey and return your response to PHSS at the address at the bottom. Thank you!

1. Name of Prison _____ Since when? _____
2. When did "security/welfare checks" begin? _____
3. How frequently do they occur? ___ /hour; ____ /day
4. Is there a difference between the frequency at night and during the day? YES / NO
5. If so, how many times an hour? day__ /hr; night __ /hr
6. Is this the 1st time they've occurred? Y/N
7. Please describe the sounds/noises. For example, what are the sounds? Loud? Do they echo?
8. Please describe the behavior of guards when they conduct the "security/welfare checks." For example, are they quiet, noisy, do they take a long time to pass cells, rap keys against the bars, jangle keys, say anything?
9. How do the checks affect your ability to sleep, such as amount of time you sleep, how deeply you sleep, how many times you wake up, how long you are awake?
10. Before the checks began, how well did you sleep and how much sleep did you get?
11. How do the checks affect your ability to function and perform mental & physical tasks?
12. How have the checks affected your mood, feelings, and attitudes?
13. Has anything helped such as the provision of ear plugs, being moved to a lower tier, or guard training resulting in quieter checks?
14. Have you filed complaint(s) regarding the "security/welfare checks?" YES / NO
15. Date complaint(s) filed? _____ Still pending? YES / NO
16. Outcome(s)?
17. Have you consulted with anyone about the checks such as an attorney? YES / NO
18. Outcome?
19. Do you think the checks could be done differently to be less disruptive to your sleep? YES / NO
20. If yes, what would you want to change?
21. Do you know if the checks have impacted other people in the area near you? YES / NO
22. If yes, please explain:
23. Any additional comment(s)?

We won't identify you in our report, but we may reference anonymously some of your answers.

Do we have your permission to share your identifying info with the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture as part of a human rights complaint? YES / NO

Your Name, Date, Prison, CDCr#_____

PHSS thanks you very much for helping us by completing this survey.

Please send answers to:

PHSS, c/o California Prison Focus,
1904 Franklin St, Ste 507,
Oakland, CA 94612

For more info about us: 510-426-5322
https://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com/

Courage Against Racism: Black Lives Matter-LA Fundraiser featuring #Every28Hours author Arlene Eisen & panel discussion Saturday, April 30 at 5 PM - 7 PM

Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church, 301 N Orange Grove Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91103

by Dahlia Ferlito, White People for Black Lives

Join us for a presentation by Arlene Eisen, co-author of ***Operation Ghetto Storm*** (also known as the #every28hours report), which first documented how a Black person is killed by police, security guards or vigilantes every 28 hours. The Report also cast light on the painful truth that these state-sponsored killings are part of a comprehensive system of containment of Black people that ranges from criminalization, surveillance, profiling, mass incarceration, to military occupation and death. "These unrelenting challenges to Black peoples' survival and human rights persist because they are deeply rooted in U.S. history of settler colonialism and slavery that created tightly woven structures of white supremacy needed to sustain today's U.S. Empire. The resistance of the people of Ferguson, Baltimore and beyond show us that until Black and Brown communities organize for a massive, long-haul struggle to uproot this system, the killings will continue." -- Arlene Eisen, www.operationghettostorm.org (AKA #every28hours Report)

A panel discussion will follow the presentation and will include: Arlene Eisen (author, ***Operation Ghetto Storm***), Dr. Melina Abdullah (organizer and original member, Black Lives Matter Los Angeles and professor of Pan African Studies at CSULA), and Michael Novick of White People 4 Black Lives, moderated by Hop Hopkins (Sierra Club).

A minimum donation of $10 is suggested, but no one turned away for lack of funds. All Proceeds will benefit Black Lives Matter-LA legal defense. www.crowdrise.com/blmla for more information. The #BLMLA7 just won acquittals or a hung jury over charges stemming from protests in Nov. 2014, but others face sentencing shortly for challenging Mayor Garcetti and Chief Charlie Beck; charges are also pending in Pasadena against another BLM organizer. This event is a partnership between White People 4 Black Lives, the Sierra Club, and the Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church.

White People 4 Black Lives (WP4BL) is a white anti-racist collective and activist project of the Alliance of White Anti-Racists Everywhere (AWARE-LA). We also operate within a national network of white anti-racists called Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). Our work is rooted in showing up for racial justice and acting in solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives, and more specifically in alliance with Black Lives Matter: Los Angeles. This event is co-sponsored by The Sierra Club. Send us an email if you'd like to get involved:

whitepeople4racialjustice@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/events/1684015955219463/

National Demands endorsed by Black Lives Matter

We demand an end to all forms of discrimination and the full recognition of our human rights.
We demand an immediate end to police brutality and the murder of Black people and all oppressed people.
We demand full, living wage employment for our people.
We demand decent housing fit for the shelter of human beings and an end to gentrification.
We demand an end to the school to prison pipeline & quality education for all.
We demand freedom from mass incarceration and an end to the prison industrial complex.
We demand a racial justice agenda from the White House that is inclusive of our shared fate as Black men, women, trans and gender-nonconforming people. Not My Brother's Keeper, but Our Children's Keeper.
We demand access to affordable healthy food for our neighborhoods.
We demand an aggressive attack against all laws, policies, and entities that disenfranchise any community from expressing themselves at the ballot.
We demand a public education system that teaches the rich history of Black people and celebrates the contributions we have made to this country and the world.
We demand the release of all U.S. political prisoners.
We demand an end to the military industrial complex that incentivizes private corporations to profit off of the death and destruction of Black and Brown communities across the globe.

Endorsing organizations: *Justice League, Millennial Activists United, Black Lives Matter, Trans Women of Color Collective, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Dream Defenders. Black and Brown People Vote, Million Hoodies Movement for Justice , African American Policy forum, ThinkMoor, Unchained, BYP 100, Freedom Side, Ohio Students Association, Hands Up UNited and the Organization for Black Struggle*

SISTERS: JOIN THE STRUGGLE INSIDE TEXAS PRISONS!

...Continued from p. 6

Ray Hill is a legend in Texas! He has fought for the rights of Texas prisoners for decades! 34 or 35 years ago, Ray started broadcasting on KPFT 90.1 FM, a Pacifica Network affiliate in Texas; Ray hosted a show he created entitled: "The Prison Show!" In 2012, after about (33) years of dedicated service, Ray decided it was time to hand the reins over to someone else.

Ray had two people in mind and one was the illustrious Anthony Graves! Anthony was convicted of a crime he didn't commit, and was sentenced to death in the state of Texas!! As many of you know Texas leads the nation in the execution of human beings!! However, Texas also leads the nation in payments paid out to people who have been falsely convicted.

Anthony Graves served 18½ years in Texas; most of those years were spent on Texas' Death Row! Death Row in Texas is one of the most inhumane environments in the world! From the very beginning Anthony insisted that he was innocent and eventually it was proven without a shadow of a doubt – Anthony has been incredibly active since his release he was invited to speak to Congress in Washington, D.C. on the topic of torture and Solitary Confinement in U.S. prisons. Graves told Congress about the horrific conditions he endured while housed on Texas' Death Row!

Graves is a heavily-sought-after speaker for groups all over the world who oppose the Death Penalty. Because of that, Ray Hill had to pair Graves up with someone who spent more of their time in the city of Houston; Kathy Griffin was a perfect candidate. On top of having her own story of survival along with her history of prisoner rights advocacy, Kathy has experience in the world of entertainment performing on stage with "Parliament," "Funkadelic," and the amazing George Clinton!

"The Prison Show!" airs between 9PM – 11PM every Friday (Central Time), her voice electrified the airwaves, her personality magnetic! It wasn't long before I found myself listening to the show every week. At the time, I was housed at one of the most abusive solitary confinement units in Texas, the (High Security) W.J. Estelle Unit, located in Huntsville, Texas.

I witnessed many acts of prisoner abuse and racism while housed at the Estelle High Security!! No one seemed to care – then I met Kathy!!

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Prisoners retain their free speech rights. The fact of confinement and the needs of the penal institution may impose some limitations on prisoners' exercise of their free speech rights, according to *Pell v. Procunier, 417 US 817,822, 94 Set 2800, 2804 (1974)*, but any such restrictions must have a "valid, rational connection" to "legitimate penological interests" not related to the content of the ideas," as ruled in *Turner v. Safely, 482 US 78, 107 SCt 2245 (1987).*

That means you cannot legally suppress the expression and consideration of ideas. Prison walls do not serve to form a barrier separating prisoners from the protection of the Constitution, according to that same *Turner v. Safely* ruling.

If you exclude printed matter on an improper basis, or give a false pretest or rationale for its exclusion, merely because of the ideas expressed in it, you are breaking the law. The prisoner denied access to material he wants to read and consider can bring a civil rights lawsuit against you with cause for seeking punitive damages. You and those who supervise you and permit or order such a denial may be subject to termination of employment. Inclusion of this primer on free speech rights of prisoners makes your denial of access to such material witting and willing. In the case of Police Dept. Chicago v. Mosley, 408 US 92, 95, 92 Sct 2286, 2290 (1972) the court found that "[A]bove all else, the First Amendment means that government has no power to restrict expression because of its message, subject matter or content."

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- MUMIA ABU JAMAL

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A JOURNAL OF INTER-COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY

TURNING THE TIDE

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#SayHisName #AltonSterling #PhilandoCastile #SayHerName #WakieshaWilson #RedelJones #BlackLivesMatter

END RACIST POLICE MURDERS WITH IMPUNITY!
SELF-DETERMINATION & SELF-DEFENSE!

SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST RACIST MURDER IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT!

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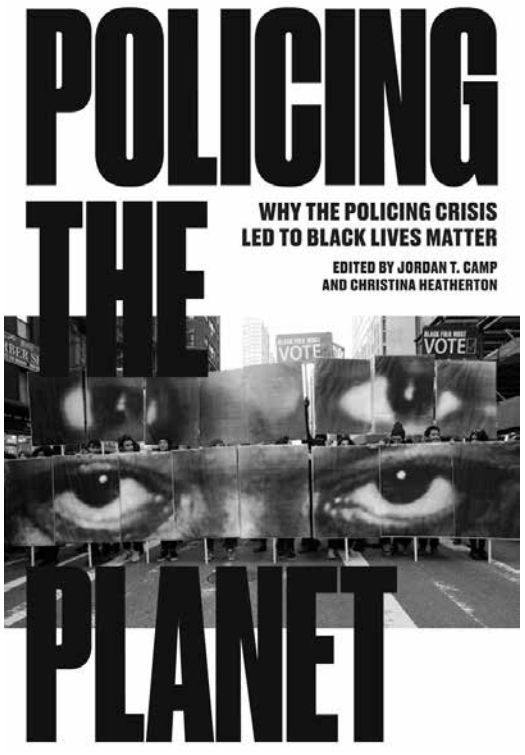
POLICING THE PLANET

Why the Policing Crisis Led to Black Lives Matter

Edited by Jordan T. Camp and Christina Heatherton
Published by Verso, London/New York, 2016. $19.95. versobooks.com
Reviewed by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***



In the wake of the videoed police killings of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge LA and Philando Castile in St. Paul MN, this is a vitally important, useful, and sometimes frustrating collection of essays, interviews with many significant on-the-ground activists and organizers, and academic analyses of the nature of policing under globalized racial capitalism and of the growing resistance to it. It is must reading, but you need to read critically and reflect on the contradictions in political viewpoints and strategic orientations among and between the various pieces in the collection. These range widely, from abolition of the police and the need to overthrow capitalism and decolonize the land and people, to much more narrowly focused efforts for reforming police strategies, tactics and policies, and demands for accountability or justice.

The editors say, "*Policing the Planet* traces the exportation of the broken windows model as [NY and LA police chief] Bratton ...became a ... security consultant for ...governments worldwide....In turn it highlights how this new urban security regime has given rise to dramatic and increasingly internationalized social movements confronting racist and uneven capitalist developments..." (p.6)

However, although it speaks at moments to the planetary integration of policing, the military and the national security surveillance state apparatus, the authors and interviewees are mainly from the US, and most of the focus is on the US and a few closely connected colonies and neo-colonies, such as Puerto Rico and El Salvador.

A good summary of the contradictions faced by these movements, and embodied within the expressions in the book itself, comes from Ruth Wilson Gilmore and Craig Gilmore, in their piece "Beyond Bratton." They state:

> Sparked by police murder, in the context of racial capitalism's neo-liberal turn, the post-Ferguson movement may therefore be understood as protests against profound austerity and the iron fist necessary to impose it. The movement's central challenge is to prevent the work from facilitating another transition in regimes of racist policing and incarceration, displacement and disinvestment through formal but not transformative reforms. James Kilgore... recently warned how the "bi-partisan consensus on criminal justice reform" is actually a move towards what he, following Tariq Ali, calls the "extreme center." (p. 198)

Their insights into the role of Connie Rice, a former civil rights litigator who came to work closely with and for the LAPD under Bratton are especially important in understanding how "reform" can strengthen the grip of the police state.

Two of the stronger pieces in the book, that directly take up the central challenge posed by the Gilmores are the interviews by Christina Heatherton with Patrisse Cullors(-Khan), a co-founder of Black Lives Matter, and with The Red Nation, a Native-led council of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people committed to the liberation of Indigenous people and the overthrow of colonialism and capitalism, based in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Cullors says "Often... in our ...work, we don't actually have a conversation about abolition. In the current #BlackLivesMatter movement, we are seeing some of the most vibrant, creative responses to state violence. We're also hearing some of the oldest arguments, like the call for special prosecutors or indictments...These... actually reify the state rather than insisting that the state should not be part of this process." (p. 35) She continues, "When our ...activism isn't rooted in a theory about transforming the world, it becomes narrow ...We have to deal with the current crisis in the short term...and we have to allow people to decide what those solutions are. We also have to create a vision that's much bigger than the one we have now." (p. 37) "It's ... necessary that, as Black people in the US, we do not center the struggle around a domestic fight for our 'civil rights.' Rather, this is a broader fight for the Black diaspora, both on the continent and across the globe." (p. 38).

In their interview, The Red Nation activists explain the group "was partially formed out of the anti-police brutality movement...For Native people in Albuquerque, forms of everyday police brutality are largely about the policing of Indigenous bodies in a space...The police... manage the crises of colonialism, colonization and occupation through the constant criminalization of Indigenous ...homeless and poor people." (p. 109) They go on, "Capital is reproduced through colonial violence. If you center the life of a Native trans sex worker ...

Native people demand justice for Dine mother Loreal Tsingine, killed by Winslow AZ cops.

that person will have a subject position that has been reproduced through colonial violence." (p. 115) Their ten-point program, which begins by calling for the reinstatement of treaty rights, ends with the declaration that, "For Native peoples to live, capitalism and colonialism must die."

Another important, though insufficiently developed theme touched on in the book is the increasing convergence between low-intensity warfare and high-intensity policing. This is noted particularly in periodic connections drawn by Cullors and others, to the role of Israeli "Defense" Forces in policing Palestinians, and the role Israeli training and consultants have played with US and other police forces. There are also important contributions in the interviews with Hamid Khan of the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, and Becky Dennison and Pete White of the LA Community Action Network (LA CAN), and with Breanna Champion, Page May and Asha Rosa Ransby-Sporn of "We Charge Genocide" from Chicago.

Members of LA CAN's Community Watch patrol Skid Row to defend residents' rights.

Other pieces in the book, however, are much less clear about the irreconcilable contradiction between the very survival of colonized and exploited people and the system of capitalism and colonialism that the police are designed to enforce. Several of the more academic pieces, and even some of the activist contributions seem to focus more on tactics, strategies and policies, on "broken windows" policing and neo-liberalism, as if they could be reversed, transformed or ameliorated without a fundamental transformation of the underlying system of exploitation and oppression. One particular area where there are widely divergent views within the book is on the question of "community policing." Though the Gilmores see it as a form of public relations pacification, other pieces seem more interested in it as a remedy, or are suspicious of it but in a not well-defined way. The understanding that police theorists have expressed, that community oriented policing is the domestic equivalent of psychological operations (PsyOps) in the military, is never drawn out. In a sense, this accurately reflects struggles and differences within the movement, and perhaps the editors chose to simply reflect this contradiction within the pages of the collection.

However, there are some troubling omissions that reflect the weakness of our movements historically and to the present day to learn from past errors and to build on past revolutionary breakthroughs. The question of self-defense, armed or otherwise, is barely touched on in this collection. The link between targeted repression of activists and political formations and the broader repression of whole communities and people is not well developed (as for instance the relationship between COINTELPRO, the murders, exile and incarceration of members of the Black Panthers, American Indian Movement, Chicano-Mexicano struggle and Puerto Rican independence movement, and the mass incarceration and austerity described in the book). There is no reference to the important document excerpted in ***Turning The Tide*** a few issues back, "Policing Terrorism in the US: The LAPD's Convergence Strategy," by Michael P. Downing, LAPD Deputy Chief, of the Counter-Terrorism and Criminal Intelligence Bureau, which spells out how police see themselves as embedded in global counter-insurgency strategy.

> **"When our ...activism isn't rooted in a theory about transforming the world, it becomes narrow..."--Patrisse Cullors, #BLM**

The insights developed, particularly by the Puerto Rican and Mexicano liberation struggles in the 70s and 80s about the genocidal decisions of the empire to stamp out the so-called "excess of democracy" diagnosed by Samuel Huntington and others at the Trilateral Commission through "spatial de-concentration" of Black and other oppressed people (today referred to as gentrification and displacement) are never referred to. Neither are the views of the New Afrikan independence movement about the roots of racist murders by police (as well as vigilantes, prison guards and private security) in the "disposability" of colonized New Afrikan people after the intentional de-industrialization of the US. These are critical insights and anti-colonial, anti-capitalist formulations and understandings that both explain the history of the past several decades and provide guidance for the directions our movements must take to successfully take a strategic offensive in the coming period.

Read and discuss this book, which has a lot to offer, but understand it is a contribution to a much more incisive and wide-ranging process of political analysis, struggle and strategizing that must take place, which must deeply engage and internalize anti-colonial and anti-capitalist perspectives (both those contained within book and others not so featured). I should also mention one significant, irritating weakness -- the book does not provide contact information for any of the activists, organizations or scholars who contributed, so that such a necessary dialogue and debate could go forward. Correcting that oversight partially here, you can reach LA's Stop LAPD Spying Coalition at stoplapdspying@gmail.com, The Red Nation at contact@therednation.org, and co-editor Jordan Camp at jordan_camp@brown.edu.

Puerto Rico: Debt Colony

By Eric Draitser http://www.telesurtv.net/english/opinion/Puerto-Rico-Troubled-Commonwealth-or-Debt-Colony-20150731-0014.html

It may not dominate international headlines as Greece has, but Puerto Rico is facing a strikingly similar crisis, one which threatens to tear apart the very fabric of its society. With a crushing debt burden poised to collapse the US commonwealth, many alleged experts have warned that only through painful "reforms" (read austerity) can the island territory make any economic progress. But at what price is this "progress" to be attained?

The question of ultimate responsibility is, just as with Greece, multifaceted. On the one hand, years of mismanagement have taken their toll on the economy, leading in part to the current crisis. On the other hand, Puerto Rico has been the victim of a predatory capitalist campaign waged by major Wall Street banks, as well as hedge funds and private speculators, who have become heavily overleveraged in Puerto Rican debt through reckless bond purchases while Wall Street has fattened itself playing the role of middleman.

But the crisis in Puerto Rico also raises a deeper political question that for years has lurked just beneath the surface of the US territory, namely Puerto Rico's true status: dependent US commonwealth or neocolonial possession? While Greece has been a member of the European Union, thereby at the very least giving it the illusion of democratic representation, Puerto Rico has remained little more than a colonial possession – an economic and political vassal of the Empire, subject to its rules and at the mercy of its lenders, while having no political representation or legal recourse. In short, Puerto Rico's crisis demonstrates unequivocally that the small island commonwealth, and its 3.5 million inhabitants, are little more than neocolonial subjects.

A Sick Patient, a Bitter Pill

Any close analysis of the financial crisis in Puerto Rico immediately shows that the current dire situation was by no means unexpected. In fact, when Governor Alejandro García Padilla declared that "The debt is not payable," he was merely confirming what keen financial analysts had known for a long time: Puerto Rico was in a vicious downward spiral that would ultimately require extraordinary intervention in order to rescue the troubled island.

But one need not be a world class economist to understand that this was undoubtedly the case. The precipitous decline of Puerto Rico's GDP growth, which dropped from a high of almost 10% in 2001 to its low of -3.3% by 2007, coincided directly with a massive explosion of debt accumulation in the form of bond selling. In 2000, Puerto Rico's debt was 63.2% of its gross national product (GNP), but by 2015 it had reached a staggering 100.2% of GNP. The negative impact of such an obviously unsustainable rise of debt accumulation was magnified by a number of circumstances, including the expiration of Section 936, a tax incentive which attracted a number of large companies to invest in Puerto Rico, and the onset of the global financial crisis of 2008 which lowered tax revenues while everything from infrastructure to pension costs continued to soar. In addition, prices in the housing market have continued to decline, dropping by 27% since 2007, while the labor participation rate has fallen to around 40% and official unemployment has been around 12%.

The real culprits are the Wall Street banks who have parasitically, and quite handsomely, profited from Puerto Rico's financial straightjacket. Barclays, Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Bank of America-Merrill Lynch, and many others rushed to underwrite massive loans in the form of bond purchases in order to then turn around and sell those bonds to hedge funds and other investors in the US and around the world, thereby raking in tremendous profits on the underwriting fees. Essentially, Wall Street banks came in with enormous capital then transferred the risk to other speculators, while profiting as middlemen.

Indeed it seems that many of the major hedge funds active in the Puerto Rico bond market were either short-sighted, or were outright swindled, by the big banks. As recently as late 2013, major hedge fund managers were predicting a rally in Puerto Rican bonds. As David Tawil, co-founder of New York-based Maglan Capital told Bloomberg, "Over the next two years, the government should be able to make progress in their plans... They will do a lot of fundamental changes; they will be seen as a reforming story, so that debt should trade up substantially."

Aside from being woefully inaccurate, such predictions illustrate precisely why major hedge funds are now on the hook, and why mutual fund management giants OppenheimerFunds and Franklin Advisers are now intimately involved in the debt restructuring negotiations with San Juan. Those two companies alone own roughly 15% of Puerto Rico's debt, and while acting in their own interests, are surely also collaborating to prevent a collapse in bond values for their Wall Street cronies in the hedge fund world. Moreover, it was OppenheimerFunds, a unit of insurer MassMutual Financial Group and Franklin Templeton, which successfully sued the Puerto Rico Electric Power Utility (PREPA) to prevent it from restructuring its debt and possibly forcing financiers to take a haircut. And so, despite the passage of the Puerto Rico Public Corporation Debt Enforcement & Recovery Act, US courts have effectively acted in the interests of speculators to block Puerto Rico from acting to restructure its debt.

All of this leads to the simple fact that, from the perspective of investors, financiers, and major institutions, the only option for Puerto Rico is brutal austerity, just as with Greece. And so, the big guns of neoliberalism have been brought in to justify the crushing policies of "fiscal responsibility," made famous by the troika in Europe. Anne O. Krueger, former World Bank Chief Economist and the first deputy managing director of the IMF, co-authored a study entitled Puerto Rico – A Way Forward which was released at the end of June 2015. The report examined many of the causes of the crisis, while conveniently underplaying the insidious role of Wall Street banks, and presented a number of deeply odious "structural reforms."

Chief among these austerity measures recommended by Krueger & Co. is an attack on workers including a proposed exemption from adherence to the US federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour. Additionally, the report suggests exemption from other labor laws including a redefinition of overtime, reduction of vacation days, elimination of end-of-year bonuses, relaxation of youth labor laws, as well as making it easier for employers to fire employees for any minor infraction, among other things. The report also recommends reducing the staffing of PREPA in order to lower costs (not, of course, reducing the cost of electricity to working class and poor Puerto Ricans), reducing and/or eliminating welfare programs aimed at poverty reduction such as food stamps, housing benefits, etc. Krueger and her cronies also call for the reduction of Medicaid benefits which provide health care coverage to those in the most extreme poverty. In short, the report reads like a manual for austerity in the near and long term.

Equally troubling is the fact that Governor Padilla has hired Stephen Rhodes, the bankruptcy judge infamous for his pro-banker rulings in Detroit, to act as consultant in Puerto Rico's debt restructuring process. In a recent interview, Rhodes explained that the situation in Puerto Rico "is a result of the same sort of phenomena we saw in Detroit." Naturally, the solution will likely be quite similar to Detroit, including the stealing of pensions, the stripping of publicly owned assets, and the raising of prices for basic needs and utilities. Of course, because Puerto Rico cannot file for Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection, the situation might be even worse in the commonwealth.

The Lesson: Debt as a Weapon

Speaking at the Summit Conference of the Organization of African Unity in 1986, the great African revolutionary leader Thomas Sankara famously said that "Those who lent money to us are the same people who colonized us, are the same who so long managed our states and our economies...We were not involved in the creation of this Debt, so we should not pay it." His point, though specific to Africa, is in fact true for all colonized territories throughout the world. Latin America knows this fact well.

And, despite its having been a possession of the US for more than a century, this point is no less true in Puerto Rico.

FREE OSCAR LOPEZ RIVERA

Earlier this year award-winning playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda (of "Hamilton" fame) asked Pres. Barack Obama about imprisoned Puerto Rican independentista Oscar López Rivera - whose only crime, according to Nobel Peace Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, is "conspiracy to free his people from the shackles of imperial justice." Obama told the Hamilton creator that he "had [the case] on his desk." Miranda, whose parents hail from Puerto Rico, used his invitation to the White House to bring up the issue of López Rivera's continued incarceration, which is of tremendous importance to Puerto Ricans. Both on the island and in the diaspora, freedom for the 73-year-old political prisoner enjoys overwhelming popular support and has united people across the political spectrum.

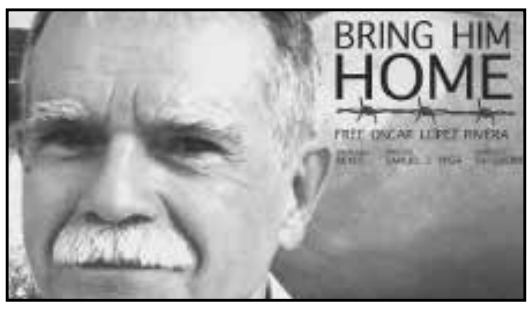
May marked the 35th anniversary that López was imprisoned. He was convicted in 1981 of "seditious conspiracy" for trying to overthrow the U.S. government by force, as well as minor charges including possession of firearms and transporting stolen vehicles across state lines. López was accused of leadership in the FALN (Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional Puertorriqueña). The group claimed responsibility for a series of bombings in Chicago and New York during the 1970s and 80s.

López was never personally tied to any bombing or any other act of violence that resulted in the death or injury of any person. Undoubtedly, if the government possessed any evidence of his participation in, or organization of, a violent act they would have charged him with it in court. But they merely charged him with conspiracy to commit sedition, the same political charged used by the apartheid South African government to convict Nelson Mandela two decades earlier. López has now served seven more years in prison than Mandela did before being freed and becoming South Africa's first post-apartheid President.

Thousands of people gathered in San Juan Puerto Rico to mark the 35th anniversary of his imprisonment and demand his release. Marchers chanted "Obama, listen to me! We want Oscar free" and "We don't want this board, we want to be free," according to Fox News Latino.

The later slogan references the stipulation in the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability (PROMESAS) Act that created a financial control board made up overwhelmingly of members from outside the island and not appointed by representatives elected by Puerto Ricans. The board has power over all fiscal decisions, effectively overriding Puerto Rico's own elected representatives.

López himself opposes the financial control board, telling El Nuevo Día in a phone interview (prison officials denied the newspaper's request for an in person interview): "This is a problem created by Washington. The problem is in Washington and Wall Street. The people of Puerto Rico should not accept it. No Puerto Rican should doubt that we can solve our own problems... We need for them to respect our right to self-determination and not depend on the crumbs that Washington gives us."



BREXIT

[col. writ. 6/25/16] ©2016 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

The national referendum determining Britain's exit from the 28-nation body called the European Union (EU) (dubbed 'Brexit' by the hip British press) has sent shock waves around the world.

That it has done so is a reflection of how narrow the national--and global--media is--and how little they see of the world they purport to cover.
It is also a window into the world of rising right-wing nationalism--and a walk away from the very notion of globalism.

The EU, which began as the EC (European Community) was a centuries-long trend to unify Europe as a singular global force--a kind of United States of Europe.
While that notion still has force, to have one of its biggest members vote to leave, means that unifying force is weakening.

That's largely because the EU served its economic elites first--and best--and left working class and poor people to fend for themselves. The Brexit vote demonstrates that older, working-class Brits yearn for British hegemony-the old days of empire-and not to be submerged in a bland European stew.

Other nations now are considering whether the grass really is greener on the other side.

The media used polls, and pundits to predict the upcoming vote--and their projections strongly leaned toward British rejection of the Brexit option. Unheard were the voices of the elderly, the rural, the poor, the working classes.

Unheard and unseen, they became the voters for rejection of the globalist project, and a return to a more hopeful time.

They provided an immense shock to the system. The globalist notion, so long seen as the inevitable, has been given a big punch in the nose.

Let's see if other punches are coming!

IS THERE A BALM IN GILEAD?

[col. writ. 4/22/16] ©'16. Mumia Abu-Jam

The great Black activist and artist, Paul Robeson, in 1958, in Carnegie Hall, sang the gospel song, 'Balm in Gilead': ♪Therrre is a balmmm in Gileaaad,
♪To make the wounded who--oole!♪.... His full, magnificent baritone filled the Hall with wonder.

These words in song sprang back from over half a century, when the news emerged of a big pharmaceutical, Gilead Sciences, Inc., buying the drug sofosbuvir--and then tripling its preferred price, to treat hundreds of thousands of people, suffering from Hepatitis C. Hepatitis C is a liver infection (inflammation), which can untreated, lead to immense suffering and death.

Sofosbuvir, sold under the names Harvoni and Sovaldi, is more than a treatment: it is a cure, with healing rates of over 95%. And it now goes for $1,000--- a pill. A full course of treatment? Over $100,000. Is there a balm in Gilead? Yup. There is. But only a few can afford it. To quote Paul Robeson, in the words of this cherished Negro spiritual, ♪There is a balm in Gilead, ♪To make the wounded whooole----♪♪ But if you can't afford it, you die.

Mumia Abu-Jamal, released from Death Row through the people's struggle, is still facing death in prison due to medical mistreatment and neglect by authorities. He is involved in a class action lawsuit to provide treatment to 15,000 prisoners suffering as he is from untreated Hep C. Learn more at PrisonRadio.org and write to Mumia at:

Mumia Abu-Jamal, #AM 8335
SCI Mahanoy
301 Morea Dr., Frackville PA 17932

OTHER VIEWS ON BREXIT:

A vote against inequality

The British vote to leave the EU is the result of the destruction of the working class, the glorification of the financial elite. Now, it is up to us to organize and fight for migrants' and workers' rights.

Demonizing 15 million working-class Britons as "racist," or "uneducated" reveals more about the media than about why so many rejected the advice of their supposed "betters." Steelworkers, dockers, shipbuilders, miners, print workers, car workers, rail workers were shattered by the very people who demanded that the survivors vote to support a status quo of unconscionable inequality.

Note I've hardly mentioned migration...because that's not the point. To be clear: workers have no country. There should be no borders. The migration of people across frontiers cannot be stopped. It's absurd to claim that the EU is a progressive force for the rights of migrants. Fortress Europe forces migrants to risk their lives at sea and deports those who survive. Nothing will change with the vote to leave. It's up to us to fight for more progressive laws and attitudes towards migrants.

A vote to stay would have been taken by the financial, political and media elites as a vindication of their contempt for us--for workers, for migrants. The vote to leave should be taken as a vote against acquiescing to this, and now we have the chance to act. We are not passive. We have the opportunity to take advantage of a divided, shattered elite and fight for tolerance. --Paul Salgado, from the Internet

A vote that emboldens the right

Several days after the UK voted in favor of Brexit, debates about the outcome, what led to it, and what the fallout from this decision will be continue to divide us. Of course, there is a significant popular divide, a ruling-class divide, and importantly, for socialists, there is a divide on a proper left response to the issue.

The Lexit (Left Exit) side has shown an inability to transcend philosophical questions about the nature of the EU by also attending to the practical questions of how to formulate a response given the actually existing balance of forces. The Brexit vote has emboldened the far right in the UK (and elsewhere) while providing a rallying point for those who wish to engage in racist and xenophobic attacks on migrants and racialized people. It put a smile on the faces of fascists everywhere while rendering already vulnerable groups more vulnerable as a result.

Not only does this directly hurt the members of those vulnerable groups, but the division and marginalization effect this has on the population more generally makes the organization of an effective socialist fightback more difficult. The forces of extreme reaction have been strengthened with the result of the vote. The working class has deprived itself in advance. Now, without utmost effort dedicated to organization, outreach, expanding our numbers and, perhaps most importantly, a renewed emphasis on practical battle strategy over abstract, sterile analysis, the consequences could be even more dire. Because any refusal to change tack and compromise with the EU now in order to fight it later under more favorable conditions to us means the reactionary nationalists and racists of the far right get their way.. --J. Gannon, from the Internet

WHEN WE FIGHT WE WIN!

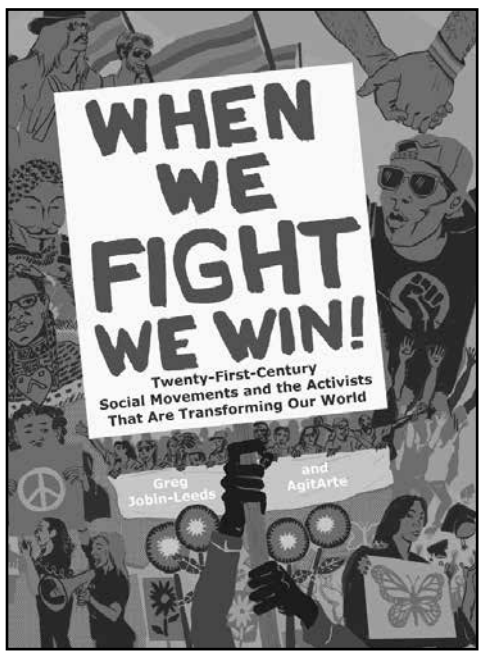
TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND THE ACTIVISTS THAT ARE TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD

by Greg Jobin-Leeds and AgitArte. NY/London, The New Press, 2016. $17.95

Reviewed by Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action-LA (ARA-LA/PART)

This inspiring book looks at the growing social movements of resistance and solidarity of the second decade of the 21st Century, grassroots efforts struggling for social change from below, to make the case for its title. Like the movements it reports on and represents, it integrates artistic and cultural work intimately in its design and content, with photographs, posters, infographics, artist interviews, and cartoons. Chapters focus on the LGBTQ movement, on community-based struggles for public education, on the abolitionist campaign against mass incarceration, on the "Dreamers" and the movement for immigrant rights, on the effort to win economic power, justice and equality, and on defense of the environment, but each section reflects the "intersectionality" that is a buzzword of grassroots political activity today -- looking at issues of race in the "queer" community, racist policing in the section on mass incarceration, undocumented queers and the role of the labor movement in the section on immigration, and the role of indigenous people in the environmental struggle for climate justice.

A measure of the fast development and transformational power of these grassroots social movements is the relative lack of focus on Black Lives Matter (though they are named, and there is an interview with Patrisse Cullors-Brignac, one of the three co-founders of Black Lives Matter). The book was obviously several years in development and in collecting and curating the art materials, so that a great deal of what is covered is from roughly 2010-2014. Inevitably, some of the intensity of the Ferguson and Baltimore uprisings is missed, as well as the widespread opposition to racist state violence.



The impact of that resistance in the streets and of Black Lives Matter is touched on in Antonio Darden's "Afterword," which quotes Malcolm X: "I believe that there will be ultimately be a clash between the oppressed and those who do the oppressing. I believe that there will be a clash between those who want freedom, justice and equality for everyone and those who want to continue the system of exploitation. I believe that there will be that kind of clash, but I don't think it will be based on the color of the skin..." Darden, hearkening to her Puerto Rican roots, defines the problem as "racism in a capitalist society," and elsewhere, organizers are quoted opposing "unregulated capitalism."

The chapter on the environmental struggle, for example, focuses a great deal on Bill McKibben and 350.Org (though there is a lengthy "sidebar" on Environmental Justice 101), but there and elsewhere, some key strategic differences and contradictions that need to be overcome are glossed over. There is not much about the sell-outs by "Big Green," for example, the corporate-sponsored environmental non-profits and NGOs.

"Estudiante Militante" (Militant Student) by Papel Machete, 14-ft puppet at a San Juan, Puerto Rico protest of privatization, 2010-11. Slogan reads: "UPR Not For Sale." Photo credit: Isamar Abreu. From "When We Fight, We Win!", pp. 46-47

Something else missing from the book, not the fault of the author and contributors, is the peace movement. It is an unfortunate reality that in the period under consideration, roughly corresponding with the Obama administration, the peace movement has given up the ghost. Unfortunately, this also manifests itself with an excessive focus on events and developments within the US. There is a recognition that the climate justice movement is global, and coverage of indigenous struggles around the issue, primarily in Canada. There is strong content about the educational struggles that have been advanced in Puerto Rico. But the chapter on immigration gives a too-quick once-over to the "push" aspects of migration in terms of the conditions of exploitation and repression, and the US role, in the countries people are coming from.

I recommend the book for its breadth, creativity and scope. I fear, however, its title is over-optimistic: there is no guarantee that when we fight, we win. As someone who has been in the struggle for half a century or more, I have seen many losing battles. What is true is that if we don't fight, we can't win. The book presents a new generation to a new generation, and seeks to inspire people with a sense of the possibilities, that "resistance is fertile."

But the need to extract lessons from defeats is also an essential part of building a movement that will go all the way, overcome defeatism, and transform society from top to bottom. This will involve not merely confronting, but uprooting and overturning capitalism and colonialism, root and branch.

OPPOSE RACISM, WAR & WHITE NATIONALISM

AT THE RNC, CLEVELAND 7/17-21, & THE DNC, PHILADELPHIA 7/24-28

Where Is the Outrage?

In 2000, massive public protests greeted the DNC in Los Angeles and the RNC in Philadelphia, met by police-state level repression, tear gas, and police brutality. The LAPD paid huge penalties to its victims; Philadelphia activists spent almost a decade fighting charges that grew out of the repression. In 2004, demonstrators in NY were so numerous, they shut down Manhattan during the RNC renomination of George W. Bush. Yet during the past 8 years of the Obama presidency, anti-globalization and anti-war groupings have been painfully quiet, even as resistance has grown around environmental devastation, economic inequality and racist police killings with impunity.

The Republican National Convention in Cleveland and the DNC in Philadelphia provide an opportunity for a unified outpouring of resistance that will link opposition to imperial war, environmental destruction, economic exploitation, police repression, the national security surveillance state, racism, sexism and white nationalism. It's past time to link opposition to the global war machine, to racist police killings with impunity, and to the system of austerity, ecocide and genocide they are designed to protect and serve.

#VoteNoEvil

It's long past time to free ourselves from the grip of the duopoly and to turn the tables on the mesmerizing spectacle of corporate dominated conventions, and elections, that only serve to legitimize the system and disempower the people. Obama has just announced the reversal of his ordered troop withdrawals from Afghanistan, no doubt as part of the encirclement of Russia and China that has also seen NATO troops advanced to the very borders of Russia in massive "war games," and US air and sea forces provoking China regularly. The TTP is designed as an economic cordon against China, perceived as a threatening adversary to the US economic empire in Asia. Obama has moved US troops into almost every nation in Africa, and is threatening the holdouts -- Eritrea and Zimbabwe -- with economic sanctions and destabilization. The US and its allies in right-wing Latin American elites is pushing regime change in Brazil, Venezuela and elsewhere, targeting popular movements as well as the "pink tide" social democratic governments.

Although the protests in Cleveland and Philly for the most part have been organized late, and reflect the confusions and divisions that still beset our movements, we are printing contact info and data about many of the rallies and actions scheduled in the two cities in late July. We encourage people to vote in the streets, and to prepare themselves for repression through state-sanctioned violence and white nationalist thugs.

Oppose Trump & the RNC in Cleveland

https://www.facebook.com/RESIST2016/

Friday, July 15
People's Justice & Peace Convention - 7-9:30pm

Cultural performances and academic and author Michael Eric Dyson will kickoff this 3 day gathering, July 15-17. Representatives of justice, peace, environmental and democracy groups will come together the weekend before the RNC. The Convention will take place July 15 and 16 at Olivet Church, but will shift to the Masonic Auditorium, 3615 Euclid Ave Cleveland, Oh 44115, on Sunday. Details soon on specific times and schedules for Saturday and Sunday. Contact us: peoplesconvention2016@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/pjpc2016

Sunday, July 17
Keep the Promise Cleveland March & Rally - 11:20 - 5pm

Join AHF & The AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland along with local & national activists including political and spiritual leaders for Cleveland's Keep The Promise March followed by a free rally & concert. For more information contact Jacqueline Burbank @ jacqueline.burbank@aidshealth.org

Monday, July 18
End Poverty NOW! March for Economic Justice - 2pm Rally & 3PM March

We will begin the rally & march on East 45th St & Superior to the Quicken Loans Arena, the convention center, on July 18 and make it loud and clear: No more complicity with the crime of poverty! No more building your political career on the backs of the poor! No more silence from those you have been stepped on! We demand an end to poverty NOW!

Monday, July 18
Coalition to stop Trump and march on the RNC - 1pm - 3pm

We will rally at Cleveland Public Square and then march to the RNC at Quicken Arena.
https://www.facebook.com/events/574059672757617/

Tuesday, July 19
CODEPINK Film Screening of "The Brainwashing of My Dad" - 7- 10 pm

(West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church 20401 Hilliard Blvd Rocky River Ohio 44116) Filmmaker Jen Senko examines the rise of right-wing media through the lens of her father, whose immersion in it radicalized him and rocked the foundation of their family. Sign up now to join CODEPINK in Cleveland during the GOP Convention to call for a President for Peace! http://www.codepink.org/president4peace

Thursday, July 21
Stand Together Against Trump - 4pm - 11pm (Downtown Cleveland)

A peaceful demonstration directed at opposition to the racist and sexist language and policies of Donald Trump. We're dedicated to working with any like-minded organizations that wish to join a protest of Trump on the final day of the convention, and members of STAT will join other protests throughout the week.

www.standtogetheragainsttrump.com

100X100 Campaign to Increase Frequency of Turning the Tide

Over its 28+ year publishing history, ***TTT*** has been published in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we print four 8-page issues a year. To restore bi-monthly publication, we launched a **"100X100"** fund-raising campaign. Last year, we got out 5 issues.

We're looking for one hundred people who will donate $100 a year, or $10/mo, to make it possible for ***TTT*** to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing nearly 2000 copies of each issue into the prisons. You can donate online at http://gofundme.com/eugzgg.

If the campaign is successful, we will begin publishing every other month in 2017. We have a handful of people who are sustainers, making a monthly donation, a larger number of people who subscribe once a year or so. Right now, we are at 10% of our goal. LA supporters could set up house meetings, where the editor will pitch to your friends for support. The future of ***Turning the Tide*** is in your hands. Now, while you're thinking about it, go to:

http://gofundme.com/eugzgg

and donate. Then share it with your contacts.

If you think ***TTT*** is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to **Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.**

Oppose Clinton & the DNC in Philadelphia

According to Chris Hedges, on July 25, opening day of the Democratic Convention in Philadelphia, Cheri Honkala, of the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, who was denied a permit to march by city authorities, will rally with thousands of protesters outside City Hall. Defying the police, they'll march up Broad St. to the convention. Many other protests, permitted and unpermitted are planned.

March on the DNC, Monday, July 25 11 AM
https://www.facebook.com/events/248664418802949/

Come out to Philadelphia and join us as we march on the Democratic National Convention this July! This march is in protest to the highly biased and unfair treatment, demonstrated by the DNC, towards presidential candidate, Bernie Sanders.
If you need a ride, check out our rideshare program: http://bit.ly/1SDYz2k
We also have a RALLYBUS program (Bernie Buses):
http://rallybus.net/march-on-the-democratic-national-convention/?ur=fe3022f6-bf2e-41aa-9ec8-0c4ca54fca55
Need a place to stay?: www.BernieBnB.com www.couchsurfing.com www.VRBO.com

SHUT DOWN the DNC! Build the Movement to Smash Capitalism & Racism
Tuesday, July 26, 4 PM Philadelphia City Hall, sponsored by Workers World Party
https://www.facebook.com/events/1637521486470450/

The Presidential elections that take place every four years bring about only cosmetic changes. Progressives, socialists, peace activists, feminists, environmentalists: Let's build a united front to take on the racist, capitalist Democratic war machine!
https://www.facebook.com/groups/occupydncconvention/

Erica Mines (center), Cheri Honkala (right) of the Poor People's Economic Human Rights campaign speak out against protest restrictions.

Four pro-Sanders rallies have been approved, with more than 30,000 people expected to attend weeklong demonstrations called "March for Bernie at DNC," which will be held at FDR Park in South Philadelphia. It's within earshot of where conventioneers will gather at the Wells Fargo Center to nominate their party's presidential nominee. The rally has been approved for five straight days, starting July 24 and ending July 28. The permit from the city also allows activists to gather each day from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The "public assemblage," as the city technically describes demonstrations, could evolve from rally into protest depending on what happens during delegate voting inside the convention. Black Men for Bernie has been approved to hold a "We the People Restoration Rally" at Thomas Paine Plaza across from City Hall on July 27-28. They will be allowed to gather from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The purpose of the rally is "to address economic inequality, human rights, poverty, criminal justice reform and lack of ownership."

Local Philadelphia groups are protesting the refusal to allow rush hour protests right outside the Well Fargo Center where the DNC is taking place. Members of at least 14 different organizations – including the MOVE Organization, the Philadelphia Coalition for Racial, Economic and Legal justice, the Black and Brown Workers Collective, and others – attended a rally to press their demands for:

- **Permission to march and rally in the streets in front of the Wells Fargo Center**
- **Repeal of the ban on protests during rush hour**
- **Shutdown of any detention center being prepared to hold DNC demonstrators**
- **Repayment to the city of $60 million in subsidies to the DNC**

"You say you have no money, but you have money for partisan politics," argued Deandra Jefferson, a 23-year-old protester. "We want our $60 million back."

Critical Time for KPFK & Pacifica Radio:

SUPPORT GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY RADIO COALITION CANDIDATES FOR KPFK LOCAL STATION BOARD

In the last year, KPFK, the listener-sponsored free speech Pacifica radio station in Los Angeles (aired from Santa Barbara to San Diego) has gone from running a nearly half-million dollar deficit to operating, just barely, in the black for the first time in almost five years. It has added the first fresh programming in a long time in both morning drive time and late night, including seasoned Black female journalists and commentators like Thandisizwe Chimurenga (a KPFK newscaster and public affairs host, published author, print journalist at the LA Watts Times and social media columnist for the Daily Kos), Nana Gyamfi (movement human rights lawyer and previously on Internet radio) and sister Charlene Muhammad (long-time public affairs host and producer at KPFK, and west coast correspondent for the Final Call newspaper). Many new volunteers have been trained in all aspects of community-oriented and -supported radio and have started to work on station operations, radio production and news-gathering. The station's "Film Club" premium membership has been restored and expanded, with new theaters in different parts of the region including Long Beach and Orange County. Listener sponsorship has climbed back up from a low of about 15,000 members to c.18,000. New youthful voices have been added in late night as well, with programming such as Sex Please, a public affairs show about matters some people like to keep private "behind closed doors," looking at issues of racism, sexism and criminalization facing sex workers and others.

Alise Sochaczewski

KPFK is currently doing the best of all five Pacifica stations, the only one current this year on its payments to the national office and to the Pacifica Radio Archives (which it hosts free of charge on the station's premises, as well as paying the largest fees of all the Pacifica stations). It is provisionally in the black since the beginning of the current fiscal year last October 1, although that has only come at the cost of reductions in hours and pay for all the paid staff and management, as the new station manager, Leslie Radford, who has effectuated these changes, sought to preserve most jobs by implementing across-the-board percentage cuts, including for herself and other managers. Even though the paid staff (unlike the managers) received a subsidy for the lost hours and pay from a CA state unemployment insurance program designed to reimburse workers who take a cut in hours in lieu of layoffs, that has resulted in an arbitrator's ruling that because Pacifica had been unable to present full financial documents to the staff at the time of the cuts, the reductions and a few layoffs that took place must be renegotiated. Radford has followed PNB directives to reduce expenses (the first GM at KPFK to do so) and to predicate reinstatement of hours for managers or staff on maintaining a balanced budget with proven income projections.

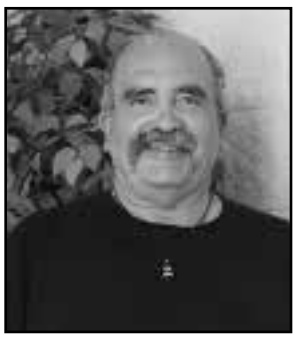
Kahllid Al-Alim

KPFK also held its first successful elections for the Local Station Board in five years (previously scheduled elections either failed to reach a quorum of voters for either listeners or staff, or were postponed by the previous majority on the Pacifica National Board loyal to former Pacifica interim executive director from KPFK, Summer Reese, who had also ousted the network's Chief Financial Officer and the station's business manager). One might think this record of achievement and a dramatic turn-around in the station's downward drift would win support from station governance. But in last year's election, in which all 24 seats on the KPFK Local Station Board (LSB) were to be filled, a well-financed group from candidateslate.org, also known as the Committee to Strengthen KPFK, won a substantial majority, returning to the local board and the national board Grace Aaron and Jan Goodman, who had been backers of the ruinous Reese regime, along with a group of disaffected paid staff members. Only six candidates from the Grassroots Community Radio Coalition were elected.

Schyna Pour

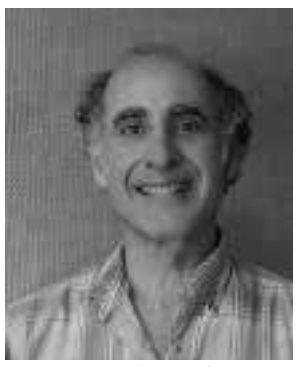
In the ensuing months, the new board majority has made it more difficult for listeners to address the board or to serve on LSB committees, requiring non-LSB members on committees to be approved by their Board majority. They enacted an arbitrary limit on the number of hardship waivers for membership that would be granted to listeners who are unable to donate to or volunteer for the station. The LSB has failed to move on holding bylaws-required town halls to hear from listeners, or to move forward on a motion to conduct off-air fundraising for the station. Their slate made clear that it wanted to remove both the new general manager and the long-time interim program director and is moving forward through the committee structure of the LSB to try to achieve those goals. They have also supported by board resolution the basis for lawsuits against the Pacifica Foundation (on at least one of which Jan Goodman is the attorney suing Pacifica). Their allies around the network, particularly at New York's WBAI, where contested election results have resulted in a stalemate in which their side has been boycotting local board meetings, incapacitated the first two national board teleconference meetings this year with unauthorized call-ins, disruptive noises and loud music (similar to the destructive "sleep-in" Reese staged when she was removed as iED by the national board), so that the protocol for the calls had to be changed in order for the board to conduct its business. Locally, they have criticized the GM for implementing the national board mandate for additional Spanish-language programming, which many of them have always opposed.

Jessica Spencer



Lawrence Reyes

Rose Elizondo



jack Neff

Mariella Saba

Thankfully, there is a new election process underway, the first in a long while actually proceeding under the regular Bylaws schedule thanks to the current Pacifica National Board (PNB) majority (which the Aaron/Goodman faction opposes) and unpaid interim Executive Director Lydia Brazon (a member of the KPFK local board, with the Humanitarian Law Project and the Peace Center). Brazon previously rescued the foundation from ruinous financial penalties that would have been imposed by the IRS due to previous iED Summer Reese's failure to pay to the government income taxes due, that Reese had withheld from the severance payments to the bulk of the staff at Pacifica's WBAI when she laid them off -- withheld from the workers but not paid to the government! Brazon arranged for an interest-free loan to Pacifica from Aris Anagnos of the Peace Center, a loan which Anagnos eventually forgave after he was impressed with the in-person national board that was held (free of charge) at the Peace Center here in L.A. last year, which came in under budget, the most economical and productive PNB meeting in years.

As the elections proceed at all five Pacifica stations, a lot is riding on the outcome. New elections (or the outcome of a lawsuit) will resolve the impasse at WBAI, and hopefully provide new legitimacy at WPFW (which had no election last year because there were not enough candidates to contest for the open seats on the board). Both those stations have suffered a serious decline in listener-sponsorships in the last year, to the point where they are having difficulties meeting their payrolls, let alone their obligations to Pacifica. Successful elections will determine the composition of the national board, which is chosen by and from the ranks of the local station boards at each of the five Pacifica stations (KPFA in Berkeley, KPFK in L.A., KPFT in Houston TX, WPFW in DC and WBAI in NY).

Michael Corral

Locally, the Grassroots Community Radio Coalition is backing a full slate of seasoned leaders of grassroots organizations and non-profits, and of paid and unpaid broadcasters from the station staff, even though a number of its current board members, including Brazon, Michael Novick (editor of ***Turning the Tide***), and Aryana Gladney of the Black Riders Liberation Party, are terming off the board.

Hsing I Bird

The Grassroots slate includes veteran labor activist Sabina Virgo, a leader of the MLK Coalition of Los Angeles; Lawrence Reyes of the Puerto Rican Alliance and a shop steward for SEIU 721, a former member of the local and national boards; Reza Pour of the Union of Progressive Iranians, running for re-election to the LSB, where he has chaired the Outreach Committee and indefatigably introduced KPFK to new listener sponsor members; Rick Macias, a union carpenter and leader of Chicanos and Latinos for Bernie; Mariella Saba, a leader of the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition and co-founder of Familia Trans Queer Liberation Movement; Kahllid Al-Alim, a parent activist with the Coalition for Educational Justice involved in the UTLA-supported campaign for "Schools LA Students Deserve," and a former LSB member; Brenda Medina, a union staffer and former member of MEChA, also previously on the KPFK LSB and the PNB; Hsing I Bird, an outreach volunteer for the station, graphic designer and photographer; Alise Sochaczewski, a member of the LSB Outreach committee and a union-member mental health worker; Schyna Pour, a young social worker; Michael Corral, an accountant and board member at the First Unitarian Church on 8th & Vermont; Jack Neff, a long-time station listener sponsor and former board member at Kuruvungna Springs, a Native American sacred site and museum that was located on the grounds of LAUSD's University High School; Jessica Spencer, a young African American community activist and a marketing professional who has helped develop the station's successful outreach strategy; Rose Mary Elizondo, a listener-sponsor from the eastern San Gabriel Valley who has volunteered in the station's phone room during fund drives and on station outreach activities; and possibly several others whose candidacies and inclusion on the slate were being firmed up as ***Turning The Tide*** went to press. Full details are available on the Coalition's website, www.gcrc-socal.org.

Sabina Virgo

Richard Macias

Staff members running with GCRC (staff members only vote for other staff members, listener sponsors only vote for other listeners, under Pacifica's Bylaws) include Jose Benavides, a

...See Grassroots, p. 7

The Life of a New Generation Panther

by Sergeant E. J.

Point J in the Black Riders Liberation Party Black Commune program states: "We ride for the immediate end of police brutality and the murder of Black people."

Question: Let's say you are minding your own business going to the grocery store you go to frequently. When you get to the doors of the store, a man who you've never known or met before approaches you with a super-militarized utility belt, with pepper spray that burns and irritates any part of the body that is exposed; a TASER, that causes excruciating pain, using electricity to cause injury; and a gun that is deadly. He approaches you, grabs you, intending to pursue his own interests.

My name is Sergeant E.J. of the Black Riders Liberation Party, new generation Black Panthers, under the leadership of General T.A.C.O. I became a Black Rider in Oakland California in 2013. I joined a couple of month before the assassination of Malcolm X's grandson Malcolm Shabazz, whose funeral I attended as a Black Rider. It's also around the same time the bounty for Assata Shakur went from $1 million to $2 million, and also when the statistics for pigs killing Black people was every 36 hours. Three years later, the onslaught of pig killings increased to every eight hours! Because that reality exists for Blacks in AmeriKKKa, the Black Riders for 20 years have been launching the Watch-a-Pig Program, which I have been a part of and help lead, to confront police terrorism.

I've been in countless demonstrations, the biggest and the most dangerous one would be the Black Lives Matter Day march we did with the Huey P. Newton Gun Club on March 16, 2015. It was an armed march, in which I was honored to be one of the gun-carrying members for the Party. Sacrificing our lives for the people, to raise consciousness around our God-given and Second Amendment right to defend ourselves.

A whole year later, the fascist state is still mad about the march. A state senator from Texas said that he has a "freedom bullet" for all the participants of that mission.

General T.A.C.O., leader of the Black Riders for 20 years, has had numerous bloody battles with the fascist state, and faced assassination attempts on his life. Through study and practice, General T.A.C.O. teaches us in areas of Africanality, law, Pantherism, and the martial sciences of fighting. The different styles he teaches are Wing Chung, judo, karate and aikido. The emphasis on the martial sciences is because of the Mulford Act in 1968 that stripped away the right (in California) to open carry firearms, which Panthers had utilized for the Community Patrol program in Oakland. It takes heart and courage to push this type of line.

On May 7, 2016, I was attacked and forced to defend myself from an assault by the racist pigs of Hawthorne, CA (in the Los Angeles area). It was my first physical altercation defending myself from the pig police. It was a bloody battle that resulted in my false arrest. From the way the pigs mounted up so quickly, it seemed like it was planned and all choreographed.

For the past year, operating in Los Angeles with Comrade Khalifa, we have encountered all different types of antagonism from the police. Yes, the pigs purposely go out their way to try to intimidate us. From mad-dogging, flashing their lights behind us as if they are going to pull us over, and that is what you call pig police harassment. The night prior to my being abducted, we were experiencing heavy police surveillance. As a Black man it is unfortunate to live with the anticipation of dying at the hands of the pigs. As a Black Rider, it won't come cheap.

We raise the consciousness of Black people every day, propagating the *Black Rider* newspaper and *Turning The Tide*, to teach you how to defend yourself against police terrorism. In the early morning, Comrade Khalifa and I were traveling to our campaigning location, where we frequently distribute the newspapers. Heading to 120th & Hawthorne, where there is heavy foot traffic, we both began to get some form of military intuition that something strange was about to happen, especially due to the fact that there was a pig car parked outside the base the night before. We got to our location, parking the Black Panther-mobile. We did a security threat scan before exiting the car with 150 Black Rider newspapers, with the image of General T.A.C.O. and two soldiers on the front page, holding high powered assault firearms for self defense, with one of the soldiers being me.

At this time, we had circulated 6000 copies of the newspaper in Los Angeles county. Judging from their response, the pigs were pissed off about this and scared. Comrade Khalifa remained in the car, and I exited to propagate the newspapers. Within 15 minutes, I witnessed two pig cars positioning themselves in front of the shoe store, twenty to 30 feet from my position. I radioed Khalifa to brief her, saying "Black Power, comrade, there are two pigs in front of Payless." She replied, "Copy. Black Power!"

The Party has a history of pigs attacking us while we are selling Black Rider newspapers; hell, the pigs in L.A. have a history of violently clashing with Black people. With an expedient stride, walking to the Panther-mobile to avoid unnecessary conflict, I never took my eyes off the demon. There were two pigs involved -- we'll call them Pig 1 and Pig 2. P2 proceeded to drive towards the exit; in my mind, I was thinking, "OK, they're leaving, filthy pigs." As I was approaching our vehicle, P2 made a U-turn, pinning me off from my departure. P1 approaches me, waving his pale hand to me saying sarcastically, "What kind of newspapers you got there?" My response to him, scowling, "I have the right not to talk to you." Standing my ground, not pleading, begging or running away. P1 got closer with a quick movement, he reached for my wrist intensely, not following one ounce of pig protocol. He tried to use something of a sorry finger-lock on the hand I was holding the 150 newspapers with, sending the papers flying into the air. With the reflexes of a Panther, I defended myself with my left hand.

P1 stumbled in a daze, as his partner P2 bolted from his vehicle to tackle me to the ground, maintaining some gravity, forcing my weight down with his arms wrapped around me, as my left arm was wrapped around his head. I was repeatedly defending myself with my right. Our feet gave way to all the tugging and pulling, which resulted in us falling down -- BOOM!! On the ground with P2 on top of my legs, trying to hit me in my groin, with P1 standing right above my head, I notice an opening to strike and I launched like a missile, catching P1 from the ground while on my back. Managing to get P2 off of me, I ninja-rolled to my feet. I wasn't just fighting for my life, I was fighting my people. On my feet, trying to get my composure, I noticed the pigs had duplicated, from two pigs to four, pinker, uglier and filthier. From the time the initial contact with the pigs had happened, it had to be 30 seconds to a minute.

The bombardment of pigs was an overwhelming experience. It felt like I was one second away from being killed. The blitz maneuver they used was all too well planned, but God is the best of planners. After a second of getting my focus together, I charged at one of the pigs. He reacted by spraying me with mace. I managed to deflect it, only to get it on the left side of my face. Blinded and caught off guard, the pigs began to rush in. Retreating to get space, one of the pugs discharged his stun gun, the new age electric whip, hitting me in my groin. By the grace of God, the lead was ripped off. Feeling the agitation of the mace take effect on my face, which made me disoriented, and temporarily blind, I stampeded with blind rage like a mad elephant, making it difficult for the pigs to pack me out.

The next thing I heard was two distributing loud clicks, another TASER stun gun being discharged. It penetrated my skin, I felt a surge of electricity go through my arm, as I yelled, "Aaah, fuck pigs!!" Feeling a million votes go through my body, I was TASEd again, piercing me with its metal prongs on the right side of my back. As foreign surges of electricity go through my body, I became immobilized and fell to the ground. Clenching my teeth, making noises of obvious discomfort, managing to say, "Fucking pigs, you fucking pigs." With my face on fire, my body recovering from intense shock treatment, the demons yelling at me, "Put your fucking hands behind your back!"

As one of the pigs began to arrest me forcefully, the other pigs paraded around me as if I was good game. After the handcuffs, new age slave shackles, are put onto my wrists, the pigs aggressively lift me to my feet. I was violently shoved towards the pigs' car, with an open door waiting for me to occupy its hot plastic seats.

Infuriated, my leg lashed out at the ajar door, slamming it shut. BOOM!! The pigs got all frantic and hysterical, shoving me against the vehicle. P2 started to yell in my ear, threatening me with mace in hand, shoving it in my face, screaming, "Do you want me to spray you again?!" Two pigs aggressively dropped me to my knees, making me lean over, placing my face against the wheel well, where I could feel the hot engine. One of the pigs put restraint bands around my legs, leaving me incapable of movement. Once again, i was lifted to my feet and placed into the pig car.

I had been assaulted, captured, kidnapped and held hostage at the Hawthorne Police Department for two-and-a-half days, demanding a ransom. Incommunicado from the cadre, I was able to get a hold of an outside contact that emailed HQ about my status. Flushing my burning face with sink water and examining my fresh wounds from the TASERs, I began to reflect on the teachings of General T.A.C.O. on the relations of people and the military institution/police station. While in custody anything I can say can be used to incriminate me, so I chose to remain silent, grounding myself in lessons of George Jackson and Huey P. Newton, doing katas, push-ups and reading. Eventually, the D.A. rejected the case against me.

After that, the fascists used a neo-colonial Asian puppet detective to coerce me into an investigation without an attorney. We cannot trust the police to investigate the police. He showed so much concern and got mad when I told him I wasn't answering any questions without a lawyer present. A few hours later, I was notified that I was being released, and all charges were dropped.

Although I may be a rare survivor of pig terrorism, unlike the recent pig murders of Alton Sterling in Louisiana and Philando Castile in Minnesota, this incident multiplied my belief 100 times to continue to serve and defend our people as a Black Rider. This is the life of a new generation Black Panther.
-- Sergeant E.J.

Black Power!
All Power to the People!

Reports Needed from Behind Enemy Lines

Revolutionary Greetings,

We are calling on all nationwide prison comrades to write a report on the scandalous prison conditions in which they reside, and send it back to our P.O. Box address. This is mandatory for all comrades in the prison system. Some of these reports will be placed inside a new column called "BEHIND ENEMY LINES" inside our Black Riders African Inter-communal Newspaper. This new column will be designed to give nationwide prison comrades a voice that will be heard on the streets around the country-"Empire." Also, these reports will allow us to coordinate outside assistance and much-needed support in areas throughout the massive Prison Industrial Complex/Concentration Camps.

The Black Riders African Inter-communal Newspaper is an important vehicle for circulating the message of the Black Riders. We the Black Riders found that we as so-called citizens of this country were being kept duped and tricked by the government and kept misinformed by mass media. In an effort to give the facts to the people, the so-called "underground press" developed with various groups setting up newspaper and magazines with differing emphasis. The Black Riders African Inter-communal Newspaper was created to present actual, reliable information to the people. The Black Riders – New Generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense has been organized to serve the needs of the people of the Black Community and to educate and politicize the masses of Black People, but the Black Riders realizes that racism can only be eliminated by educating the Black and oppressed people about the news and problems of the Black And oppressed people in Amerikkka that are dealt with in the Black Riders African Intercommunal Newspaper and other international news. The Black Riders African Inter-communal Newspaper is the alternative to the "government approved" stories presented in the mass media and the product of an effort to present the facts, not stories as dictated by the oppressor, but as seen from our side, the other side of the Revolutionary gun.

By General T.A.C.O AKA Wolverine Shakur

Black Power! All Power to the People! Red, Black, and Green 4 LIFE!!!

Contact info for Black Riders

The BRLP is setting up new chapters rapidly around the U.S, and is building a nationwide Prison Chapter... Join Now!

You can reach Black Riders-New Generation Black Panther Party for Self Defense at

P.O. Box 8297, Los Angeles CA 90008, blackriders1996@gmail.com

Or by calling 601-557-5257(BRLP),

on Facebook, Black-Riders-Liberation-Party,

Twitter:@blackriders1996, Instagram, blackriders1996.

GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY RADIO COALITION

...Continued from p. 5

paid staff member at the station who has worked on producing a number of popular shows, including Margaret Prescod's *Sojourner Truth* show as well participating in the Spanish-language programming bloc and in People's School of Broadcasting training project to impart skills to new volunteers; Tej Grewall, running for re-election to the board, a former LSB chair and unpaid staffer who worked closely with the late Dedon Kamathi and has helped revive his show, *Freedom Now*, after his untimely passing; Ricardo Hernandez, with the Association of Spanish-Language Programmers; and Polina Vasiliev, a multi-lingual participant in the Spanish-language programming bloc. Again, additional staff candidate endorsements may be forthcoming after ***TTT***'s print deadline. Check www.gcrc-socal.org for more information. Ballots will be going out in mid-August and are due back no later than 45 days later. There will be an option of paper ballot or e-ballot (electronic distribution of election materials and e-voting reduces election costs for Pacifica).

Polina Vasiliev

Pacifica elections are all held with a proportional representation method called Single Transferable Voting (STV). On such a ballot, you mark the candidates you favor, in order of preference indicated numerically. Please vote for all the Grassroots Coalition candidates. The slate combines youthful energy and enthusiasm, practical non-profit and financial experience, and accountability to grassroots organizations that will help ensure that if elected, GCRC will work to increase the station's engagement with and public service to the actual and potential listening audience. GCRC supports GM Radford's efforts to breathe life into the station and engage more fully with the community, such as the remote broadcast of the LA Human Relations Commission hearings on gang injunctions and LAPD spying and surveillance. We want a board majority that will once again hold the required Town Hall meetings to receive listener input and feedback, take on the responsibility of fund-raising off-air for the station, and assist in rebuilding KPFK's listening audience by regaining lost listeners, retaining current ones, and attracting a new generation of community-based problem solvers and communicators who can help carry the station forward in the 21st Century. You can find more information about the full candidate list, our program, platform and principles, at www.gcrc-socal.org

Jose Benavides

Tej Grewall

URGENT APPEAL

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Postage alone for this issue comes to nearly $1000. We would like to increase the size and frequency of Turning the Tide, but we can only do it with your support. If you're a prisoner and can send stamps or get someone outside the walls to subsidize your subscription, please do so. If you work with an info shop or other zine or record distro, please consider ordering a bundle of TTT to distribute; $5 will get you 20 copies. And check out our 100X100 campaign elsewhere in this issue. If you live in L.A. or nearby, we can come to house meetings to speak and collect donations for the paper. Email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

Courage Against Racism series Black Lives Matter Fundraiser

Presentation &Forum on Surveillance & Repression

Hamid Khan of the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition will provide an overview of surveillance in Los Angeles and its impact on privacy, organizing, and protesting. The Stop LAPD Spying Coalition's *Campaign to Rescind Special Order 1(1)* is an alliance of different organizations (and, in our case, individuals), each with their own interests, mission and vision, that come together to collaborate and take collective action together toward a common goal(s). We reject all forms of police oppression and any policy that make us all suspects in the eyes of the State. Our vision is the dismantling of government-sanctioned spying and intelligence gathering, in all its multiple forms. (For more information go to: stoplapdspying.org)

A panel discussion will follow the presentation and will include: Hamid Khan (Stop LAPD Spying Coalition), Jasmine Abdullah (Black Lives Matter Pasadena), and a Black Lives Matter Legal Counsel (TBD). The panel will be moderated by Karen Hilfman (of White People 4 Black Lives).

Sunday, July 31 from 3-5:30 PM, Unitarian Universalist Neighborhood Church, 301 N. Orange Grove, Pasadena CA.

The suggested donation is $10-$25 sliding scale, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. All proceeds will benefit Black Lives Matter-LA legal defense. Check www.crowdrise.com/blmla for more information.

This is a multi-racial event, family friendly, and the facility is ADA compliant. It is near the Metro Gold Line Azusa/Citrus stop, and the 180/181/267/264/256 buses. Free refreshments provided.

This event is a partnership between White People 4 Black Lives, Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, Black Lives Matter Pasadena and Los Angeles, the Sierra Club and the Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church.

White People 4 Black Lives (WP4BL) is a white anti-racist collective and activist project of the Alliance of White Anti-Racists Everywhere (AWARE-LA). We also operate within a national network of white anti-racists called Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). Our work is rooted in showing up for racial justice and acting in solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives, and more specifically in alliance with Black Lives Matter: Los Angeles. Send us an email if you'd like to get involved: whitepeople4racialjustice@gmail.com

BLM-LA Local Demands on the LA Board of Police Commissioners and Mayor Garcetti:

1) Fire Chief Beck for his refusal to hold LAPD officers accountable.
2) Work in partnership with the Los Angeles City Council to develop a reparations strategy.
3) Hold Police Commission meetings that are open, accessible, and at a time when working people can attend.
4) Appoint real community advocates to key commission seats.
5) Adhere to the agreed Town Hall meeting structure with the Black community negotiated in July 2015.

https://www.facebook.com/events/1154865234577364/

BLACK LIVES MATTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ★ Oct. 9: White People for Black Lives mtg, 10a. Info: whitepeople4racialjustice@gmail.com
- ★ October 16: WP4BL intervention in CicLAvia Downtown LA contact info above
- ★ Oct. 23: Cha-Cha Jimenez speaks on Grito de Jayuya Info: alianzapr@hotmail.com
- ★ 100X100 Fundraising Campaign for TTT gofundme.com/eugzgg ongoing
- ★ Nov. 11-12: TORCH AntiFa Network gathering, Denver CO see p. 4 for details
- ★ Nov. 19: Courage Against Racism - Free All Political Prisoners, Obama! see p. 7
- ★ February 11, 2017: Save the Date- 30th Anniv. of PART, Editor M. Novick's 70th birthday

Check us out via www.antiracist.org, facebook.com/tideturning, ara-la.tumblr.com

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- MUMIA ABU JAMAL

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TTT published at least four times a year. **No checks to Turning the Tide, please! Can't process them!** Please write us every time your address changes, with your EXACT address as it should appear on the address label. **TTT** is a small project with few resources: **we can't provide books or legal aid, or investigate individuals' innocence.**

A JOURNAL OF INTER-COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY

TURNING THE TIDE

Volume 28 ★ Number 9 ★ ISSN 1082-6491 ★ Oct.-December 2016

SOLIDARITY WITH CHARLOTTE TULSA OK, COLUMBUS OH

Say Their Names: Terence Crutcher Ty're King, Keith Lamont Scott

SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST RACIST MURDER IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT!

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★ WP4BL Solidarity
★ Black Riders on Police Terrorism after Dallas
★ Sex Workers in Prison
★ and Much More!

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On Solidarity with Standing Rock,

Executive Clemency and the International Indigenous Struggle

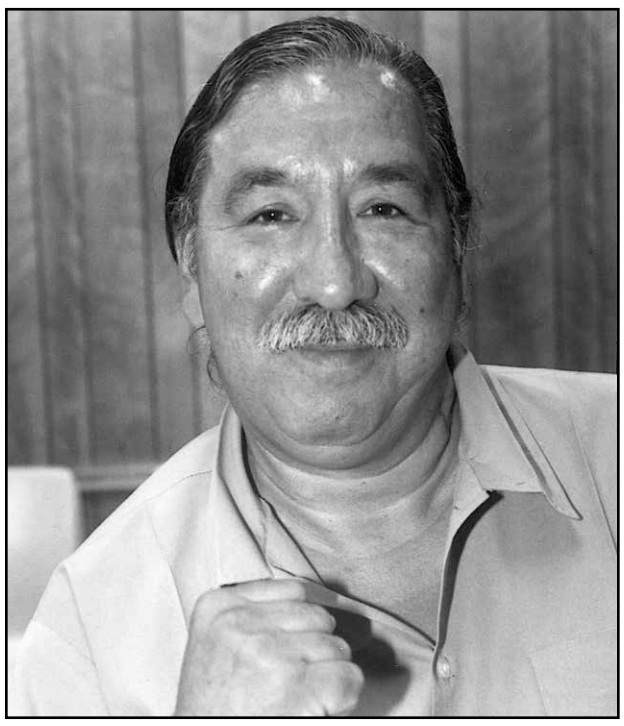
by Leonard Peltier

Greeting Sisters and Brothers:

I have been asked to write a SOLIDARITY statement to everyone about the Camp of the Sacred Stones on Standing Rock. Thank you for this great honor. I must admit it is very difficult for me to even begin this statement as my eyes get so blurred from tears and my heart swells with pride, as chills run up and down my neck and back. I'm so proud of all of you young people and others there.

I am grateful to have survived to see the rebirth of the united and undefeated Sioux Nation at Standing Rock in the resistance to the poisonous pipeline that threatens the life source of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. It is an honor to have been alive to see this happen with you young people. You are nothing but awesome in my eyes.

It has been a long, hard road these 40 years of being caged by an inhuman system for a crime I did not commit. I could not have survived physically or mentally



without your support, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart and the depths of my soul for encouraging me to endure and maintain a spiritual and legal resistance.
We are now coming to the end of that road, soon arriving at a destination which will at least in part be determined by you. Along the lines of what Martin Luther King said shortly before his death, I may not get there with you, but I only hope and pray that my life, and if necessary, my death, will lead my Native peoples closer to the Promised Land.

I refer here not to the Promised Land of the Christian bible, but to the modest promises of the Treaties our ancestors secured from enemies bent on their destruction; in order to enable us to survive as distinct peoples and live in a dignified manner. Our elders knew the value of written words and laws to the white man, even as they knew the lengths the invaders would go to try to get around them.

Our ancestors did not benefit from these Treaties, but they shrewdly and persistently negotiated the best terms they could get, to protect us from wars which could only end in our destruction, no matter how courageously and effectively we fought. No, the Treaties were to the benefit of the Americans, this upstart nation needed the Treaties to put a veneer of legitimacy on its conquest of the land and its rebellion against its own countrymen and king.

It should be remembered that Standing Rock was the site of the 1974 conference of the international indigenous movement that spread throughout the Americas and beyond, the starting point for the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The UNDRIP was resisted by the United States for three decades until its adoption by the UN in 2007. The US was one of just four nations to vote against ratification, with President Obama acknowledging the Declaration as an aspirational document without binding force under international law.

While some of the leaders of this movement are veterans of the 1970s resistance at Pine Ridge; they share the wisdom of our past elders in perceiving the moral and political symbolism of peaceful protest today is as necessary for us as was necessary for the people of Pine Ridge in the 1970s. The 71-day occupation of Wounded Knee ended with an agreement to investigate human rights and treaty abuses; that inquiry and promise were never implemented nor honored by the United States. The Wounded Knee Agreement should be honored with a Truth and Reconciliation Commission established to thoroughly examine the US government's role in the "Reign of Terror" on Pine Ridge in the 1970s. This project should be coordinated with the cooperation of the many international human rights organizations that have called for my immediate and unconditional release for more than four decades.

I have to caution you young people to be careful, for you are up against a very evil group of people whose only concern is to fill their pockets with even more gold and wealth. They could not care less how many of you they have to kill or bury in a prison cell. They don't care if you are a young child or an old grandmother, and you better believe they are and have been recruiting our own people to be snitches and traitors. They will look to the drunks, the addicts, and child molesters, those who prey on our old and our children; they look for the weak-minded individuals. You must remember to be very cautious about falsely accusing people based more on personal opinion than on evidence. Be smart.

I call on all my supporters and allies to join the struggle at Standing Rock in the spirit of peaceful spiritual resistance and to work together to protect Unci Maka, Grandmother Earth. I also call upon my supporters and all people who share this Earth to join together to insist that the US complies with and honors the provisions of international law as expressed in the UNDRIP, International Human Rights Treaties and the long-neglected Treaties and trust agreements with the Sioux Nation. I particularly appeal to Jill Stein and the Green Parties of the US and the world to join this struggle by calling for my release and adopting the UNDRIP as the new legal framework for relations with indigenous peoples.

Finally, I also urge my supporters to immediately and urgently call upon President Obama to grant my petition for clemency, to permit me to live my final years on the Turtle Mountain Reservation. Scholars, political grassroots leaders, humanitarians and Nobel Peace Laureates have demanded my release for more than four decades. My Clemency Petition asks President Obama to commute, or end, my prison term now in order for our nation to make progress healing its fractured relations with Native communities. By facing and addressing the injustices of the past, together we can build a better future for our children and our children's children.

Again, my heartfelt thanks to all of you for working together to protect the water. Water is Life.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse…
Doksha,
Leonard Peltier

Source: http://www.counterpunch.org/20 16/09/16/on-solidarity-with-standing-rock-executive-clemency-and-the-international-indigenous-struggle/

100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of *Turning the Tide*

Over its 28+ year publishing history, ***TTT*** has been published in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we print four or five 8-page issues a year. Now, to restore bi-monthly publication, we have launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed **"100X100."**

We are looking for one hundred people who will donate $100 a year, or $10/mo, to make it possible for ***TTT*** to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing nearly 2000 copies of each issue into the prisons. You can donate online at http://gofundme.com/eugzgg.

Turning the Tide doesn't print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps; their contribution more often comes by writing articles, letters and poems or sending in drawings. Often, they pass the copy of ***TTT*** that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners.**Prisoners, if you can find donors or subscribers outside prison to subsidize your sub, that would help a lot**.

If you'd like to see ***Turning the Tide*** more frequently, if you want to contribute to breaking down the walls of isolation and separation imposed by the prison system, please contribute. If you can't manage $100 all at once, you could donate $10 a month. But any donation you make can help. Postage costs for a single issue of TTT are almost $1000. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to Facebook friends, Twitter followers, via SnapChat, and email contacts. Everything helps.

If the campaign is successful, we will begin publishing every other month in 2017. Postage is our biggest expense. Nobody gets paid at ***TTT.*** But the Postal Service is not so generous. We have a handful of people who are sustainers, making a monthly donation, a larger number of people who subscribe once a year or so. Right now, we are at 10% of our goal. LA supporters could set up house meetings, where the editor will pitch to your friends for support. The future of ***Turning the Tide*** is in your hands. Now, while you're thinking about it, go to:

http://gofundme.com/eugzgg

and donate, or by PayPal to antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com. Then share it with your contacts. With your help, ***Turning the Tide*** can step up to the "urgency of now" -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, colonialism, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible.

If you think ***TTT*** is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to **Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.**

WHORE NEXT DOOR: Prisoners' Dilemma

By Siouxsie Q

Although California is known as a liberal haven, it is also a state with a serious incarceration problem. In 2009, federal courts mandated that the Golden State reduce its prison population, which was the highest in the nation at the time.

From a peak of 163,000, the number of people currently in state custody has fallen to just over 127,000, with nearly 5,000 incarcerated persons housed out-of-state in Arizona and Mississippi. This puts the state in compliance with the court's mandate to get the prison population down to only 137.5 percent of capacity. (California was at 143 percent as recently as 2014.)

Additionally, there's a growing movement in California to repeal mandatory minimum-prison sentencing, which has contributed to the state's overcrowded prison system. Governor Jerry Brown is behind the latest round of prison reform that may be on the November ballot. There's strong opposition, including — get ready to die of not-surprise — from the Republican Party.

A few weeks ago, I got the opportunity to observe the initiatives committee meeting at the California GOP convention. Two initiatives on the docket — one

Photo: http://www.arizonaprisonwatch.org/2013/11/from-tits-and-sass-swop-phoenix-and.html

that would increase parole chances for felons convicted of nonviolent crimes, and another repealing the death penalty — were met with near-unanimous opposition.

Three middle-aged white male politicians presented their cases as to why these proposals were no good, and not a soul spoke to the contrary (aside from one douchebag in the audience who made a rape joke, chuckling that perhaps nonviolent crimes like the rape of an unconscious woman should result in less jail time because, "I mean, if she's passed out, it's fine, right?") Ultimately, the initiatives committee and the party at large recommended voter opposition to both initiatives, toeing the line of ensuring people stay in prison and die there.

But one glimmer of hope in the world of criminal justice reform came earlier this month when the state Senate voted to decrease penalties for prostitution charges — moving slowly toward a world where state-sanctioned sentencing might be a thing of the past.

Under California law, sex workers can face 45 days in jail for a second prostitution charge, and 90 days for a third — as well as restrictions on their driver's licenses if they used a car while working. Provided the state Assembly approves SB 1129, California ho's can have a little peace of mind knowing they won't be thrown in jail for doing their job. Though the measure's author, Senate Majority Leader Bill Monning (D-Carmel), based the legislation on the notion that all sex workers are victims, it's a small but meaningful step in the right direction.

Last year, Amnesty International recommended a move toward worldwide decriminalization of prostitution as the most important step we can take to combat human trafficking — and decreasing penalties for sex workers is a building block toward making that a reality.

But casting all sex workers as either victim or villain negates the labor of sex work and the agency of the people who do it. Prostitution is a job that some people do; it doesn't matter that others might never understand how or why someone would do that type of work. It's hard to imagine myself being a plumber, or an EMT, but does that make those jobs wrong? Does it mean that anyone who does that job is being forced to do it because no one on earth would choose such a life? Of course not. Some people can just deal with shit, death, and — in my case — cum better than others can.

I've never been forced or coerced to do my job, but some people certainly have been — though poverty and the racist, capitalist structure of our society are usually far more coercive than any "trafficker." But regardless of how people enter the sex industry — be it by choice, circumstance, or coercion — we all deserve access to justice without fear of facing jail time or shame-based "diversion programs."

California's Legislative Council analysis of SB 1129 states that, "While significant gains have been made in reducing the prison population, the state must stabilize these advances and demonstrate to the federal court that California has in place the 'durable solution' to prison overcrowding." California may have reached the federal government's benchmark for prison reform, but living quarters that are over capacity by almost 40 percent are inhumane and unacceptable.

I'm pleased to see that California sex workers may no longer have to fear incarceration, but it's going to take much more to dismantle the prison industrial complex in the United States — which has the highest rate of incarceration in the world.

***The Whore Next Door** strives to humanize people in the sex industry. Siouxsie Q provides a glimpse into her world of sex work by sharing the stories, art, and voices of sex workers in the San Francisco Weekly and on her weekly podcast, The Whorecast. While tackling issues from politics to comic books, Siouxsie will charm her way into your heart.*

SWOPUSA – SWOP Behind Bars
340 S Lemon Ave #7566
Walnut CA 91789

SWOP helps build stronger communities and a stronger movement through technical assistance and direct support and advocacy. Our chapters address structural, cultural, and inter-personal violence individuals in the sex trade face by working to change attitudes, change policies, and create alternative community-led systems of support. www.swopbehindbars.org. Community Support Line: 877-776-2004

Do you know sex workers who are in jail or prison? Let us know and we will send them a newsletter!

Email: SWOPbehindbars@gmail.com

SWOP Behind Bars is a collaborative effort of the entire sex work community. We work diligently to provide prison libraries a wide variety of books, and we provide our incarcerated members with a variety of community resources for re-entry. Have your friends and family follow swop behind bars on facebook and twitter!

Our Editors And July Contributors - Alex Andrews – Project Manager – Jill Mccracken – SWOP Tampa Bay - Katherine Koster – SWOP USA - Sherry Shew – SWOP San Antonio; Maggie Mcneill - Souxsie Q – Tansey Breshears – Ceyenne Dorohow. Special Thanks to Tara Burns and Bella Robinson for their connections and activism.

NAME YOUR POISON

[col. writ. 8/23/16] ©2016 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

As the campaign clock winds down to zero, the choices before the voters seem incredibly grim, especially if one is a Black voter.

The polls say 91% of Black voters will vote for Hillary Rodham Clinton and a scant 1% will vote for her Republican opponent, Donald J. Trump.

It seems clear that the Black vote, and perhaps the Latina vote, will prove decisive in who will live in the house that slaves built) and rebuilt), called the White House.

But, in a sense, it doesn't matter who wins, for Black folks lose. For choice A means voting for an overt racist; and choice B means voting for someone who supported one of the most poisonous public policies in decades, namely, the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC)

That's because neo-liberalism (in other words, Clintonism) is the politics of repression with a smile. Today's neo-liberalism is yesterday's conservatism. And today's conservatism is little more that neo-fascism. And both are servants of Wall Street (which, not surprisingly, bankrolls them both).

What we are seeing is the total destruction of democracy, for a kind of market realism. What makes money, rules.

We are witnessing the rotting of capitalism, and our politics, as ugly as it is, is a symptom of this disease.

For neo-liberalism and neo-conservatism equals naked corporatism.

In a very real sense, Clintonism = Trumpism, with differences in degree, not in kind. In a real democracy, informed citizens' vote on knowledge, not emotions.

Instead, they are driven like herds of cattle, from one disaster behind them to the disaster looming before them.

Driven, from fear to hope; and from hope, to new fears.

Such a politics as this can only bode ill for the future.

--©'16maj

Mumia Abu-Jamal, released from Death Row through the people's struggle, is still facing death in prison due to medical mistreatment and neglect by authorities. He is involved in a class action lawsuit to provide treatment to 15,000 prisoners suffering as he is from untreated Hepatitis C. A judge recently ruled the denial of medical care unconstitutional, but also denied Mumia treatment or relief. Learn more and donate at www.PrisonRadio.org and write to Mumia at:

Mumia Abu-Jamal, #AM 8335
SCI Mahanoy
301 Morea Dr., Frackville PA 17932

The Other Campaign

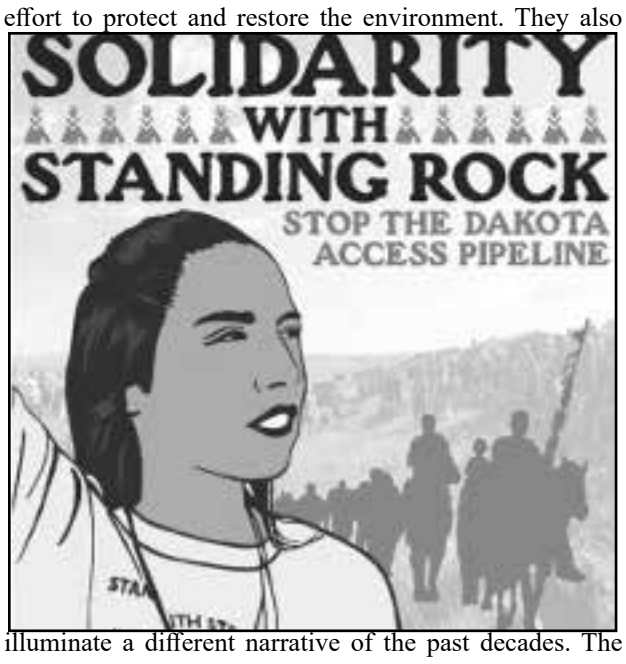
by Michael Novick, ***Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/ People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)***

Most of the mainstream media and much of the movement have been mesmerized by the Machiavellian manifestation of "democracy" in the 2016 presidential election in the US. Perhaps this flood of funding and fixation of focus was necessitated by the unparalleled and unprecedented levels of unpopularity of both major candidates, and by the unexpected discovery that professing socialism, far from disqualifying Bernie Sanders, has made him the most popular politician in the US. Fomenting fear is the tried and true strategy for herding people into acceptance of the false alternatives that the parties of capitalism and colonialism offer. The flatulent and flabby name-calling that passed for a "debate" has hopefully made it clear to millions that answers lie outside the electoral arena.

In Mexico, the Zapatistas stepped up when faced with the reality that none of the parties responded to the true needs of the Mexican people, not even the "third party" alternative that the PRD presented to the PRI and the PAN who have alternated in power recently. They declared "the other campaign," a campaign that is not electoral, but a campaign to express and exercise the sovereignty and rights of the people. In the Mexican context, that begins with the indigenous people who are the base of the society and have resisted colonialism and genocide for half a millennium. It also includes the African component of Mexican society, and the poor and working people, the community self-defense organizations, the teachers and students who have faced bloody repression and disappearances.

Are there parallels in the United States? The increasingly seamless nature of the Empire, combined with the long history of settler colonialism and racism on which US politics, commerce and society are based, mean that the answer is a resounding YES. Stolen land and labor are the fundamentals of US society. What are the elements of "the other campaign," the campaign for popular rights, sovereignty, survival and self-determination here? They are the struggles that are shaping the future and that must become the focus of our transformative efforts:

Indigenous sovereignty: The struggle to stop the North Dakota Access Pipeline demonstrates the reality that Native peoples' struggles are at the forefront of the effort to protect and restore the environment. They also



illuminate a different narrative of the past decades. The indigenous peoples' movements, inside and outside the US, have gone from strength to strength over the past decades, despite police agents, bloody repression and political incarceration. They have built international unity and recognition and have taken the initiative strategically to define the terms and goals of their struggle and win allies to their cause. This is a tremendous antidote to the "you-can't-fight-City-Hall" defeatism that many people are trapped in. This perspective is expressed more fully in this issue in the article by Leonard Peltier, long-held Native American political prisoner, about the connections between the Native-led struggle at Standing Rock, the international Indigenous movement and the struggle for executive clemency. As the events in Standing Rock clearly demonstrated, the struggle to protect the environment and respect Native peoples' land rights is also a struggle against repression, state violence and political surveillance. "Water Is Life," the cry of the Sioux Nation and their allies, helps make it clear that the capitalist-colonial Empire is Death, and that for the planet and the people to live, the system of profit and extraction must end.

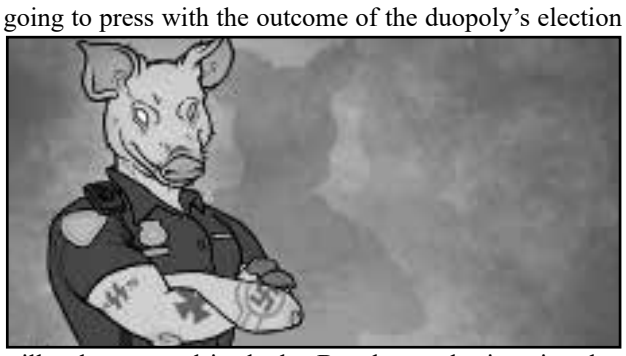
Black Lives Matter: The struggle against the racist state violence which is enforcing systemic racism institutionalized in the criminal justice system, the educational system, the health care system, and the basic economic enterprises, has galvanized millions. The courage and perseverance of people in the streets in Ferguson, in Baltimore, in Los Angeles, in Minneapolis and more recently in Charlotte, have transformed not just the real

political discourse in this country, but the consciousness of millions including white people who have begun to act in solidarity and to undermine racialized systems of injustice and miseducation. The Black liberation movement on a mass level has been reborn with a new generation intent on acting on the inclusive understanding that **all** Black lives matter, including the lives of women, children and men, of transgender and queer Black people. The astonishing response to the refusal of San Francisco 49'ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick to stand for the Star Spangled Banner, in which increasing numbers of professional, collegiate and high school athletes have followed his example, and, after the latest killing in Charlotte North Carolina, where thousands of UNC students raised clenched fists during the national anthem in a show of solidarity, indicate an unprecedented breach in the glue of white supremacy and white privilege that have maintained the edifice of colonialism, capitalism and exploitation in this country. The Movement for Black Lives, embracing dozens of groups, has put forward an extensive policy platform at https://policy.m4bl.org/ That document is much too long to reproduce here, but its highlighted themes include: **END THE WAR ON BLACK PEOPLE:** We demand an end to the war against Black people. Since this country's inception there have been named and unnamed wars on our communities. We demand an end to the criminalization, incarceration, and killing of our people. **REPARATIONS:** We demand reparations for past and continuing harms. The government, responsible corporations and other institutions that have profited off of the harm they have inflicted on Black people — from colonialism to slavery through food and housing redlining, mass incarceration, and surveillance — must repair the harm done. **INVEST-DIVEST:** We demand investments in the education, health and safety of Black people, instead of investments in the criminalizing, caging, and harming of Black people. We want investments in Black communities, determined by Black communities, and divestment from exploitative forces including prisons, fossil fuels, police, surveillance and exploitative corporations. **ECONOMIC JUSTICE:** We demand economic justice for all and a reconstruction of the economy to ensure Black communities have collective ownership, not merely access. **COMMUNITY CONTROL:** We demand a world where those most impacted in our communities control the laws, institutions, and policies that are meant to serve us – from our schools to our local budgets, economies, police departments, and our land – while recognizing that the rights and histories of our Indigenous family must also be respected. **POLITICAL POWER:** We demand independent Black political power and Black self-determination in all areas of society. We envision a remaking of the current U.S. political system in order to create a real democracy where Black people and all marginalized people can effectively exercise full political power. (For another take on a program for Black liberation and revolutionary social and economic transformation, see the ***Black Commune Program*** elsewhere in this issue.)

Undocumented and unafraid: The migrant rights movement has challenged the divisions the system tries to create within families and communities based on legalities, status, language and documents. Beyond that, immigrant communities in the US are a key bridge to internationalism and global inter-communalism of working people in the US with those in other countries exploited and dominated by US imperialism. The ties between Mexicans on both sides of the imposed border, the connections between Hondurans, Guatemalans and Salvadorans in the US with struggles in their homelands, the growth in migration to the US of people from Africa and the African diaspora in the Caribbean and South America, the links that Filipinos and Filipino-descent people maintain with the revolutionary democratic struggle in the Philippines, to name a few, are critical to a process of decolonization internally and internationally. Syrians, Palestinians and other Arab-Americans are a bulwark of opposition to imperialist war-making and settler-colonialism in the "middle east." The racist right wing claims ethnic studies are a Trojan Horse; we must embrace them as a critical tool of internationalism and anti-racism.

Incarcerated workers: The practical leading edge of labor in the US is represented by the recent and on-going strike action by thousands of prisoners, supported by their families and networks of solidarity outside the walls. The Fight for $15 and a union, reflecting the attempt of organized labor and the left to concretize the issues of inequality and exploitation, must embrace this struggle of oppressed, colonized and imprisoned workers against slavery and repression. Prisoners in Texas, for example, almost literally manufacture their own chains -- they work under plantation conditions growing the food they eat, they build the furniture and hardware used in the prisons. As Keith "Malik" Washington (of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party – Prison Chapter) reported on behalf of the struggle to abolish the 13th Amendment, which legalized slavery for those convicted of a crime reports: "On September 15, 2016, I was escorted to the Security Threat Group Office at the H.H. Coffield Unit and informed by TDCJ employee Sergeant Robert Walker that I was being classified as a leading member of an organization determined to be a Security Threat. I was told that high-ranking prison officials in Texas wanted me placed in long-term solitary confinement, better known as Administrative Segregation. This step was taken in response to my peaceful organizing of prisoners for the September 9 National Prison Work Stoppage. Approximately 3 weeks earlier, a member of the Islamic community in Coffield, who had never posted anything about the September 9 work stoppage, posted a threatening message concerning the strike. I was not informed nor did I have any input about the message. Prison officials on the Unit, including Lieutenant G. Richards, were well aware that I have never promoted violence in my education and organizing efforts. Nevertheless, in a blatant act of sinister deception, Lieutenant Richards wrote a Major Disciplinary Infraction against me, charging me with responsibility for the threatening message!" In response to the strike, a non-violent refusal to work for no pay, he reports that "prison officials and law enforcement agencies [went] after organizers such as Imam Siddique Abdullah Hasan and Sean Swain of the Free Ohio Movement and Kinetik Justice of the Free Alabama Movement. We must not allow the capitalist oppressors to hijack our movement." Prison Legal News is asking for reports of any information about any lockdowns, phone shutdowns, suspended visits, etc... that you have heard of, and to include the facility name and state. Email information to: mmccoin@prisonlegalnews.org. The Free Alabama Movement issued a press release calling for an end to the humanitarian crisis at Holman prison. They stated through social media that many guards are not reporting to work and that much of the prison remains unguarded. In a press release they wrote: "A serious humanitarian crisis is developing at Holman prison as correctional officers continue to walk off of the job amid concerns about safety and apathy from Warden Terry Raybon and the office of ADOC Commissioner Jefferson S Dunn, as violence, including deadly stabbings and assaults continue to mount." For more details about the strike and solidarity actions with the strikers, check out https://itsgoingdown.org/prisonstrike-resistance-to-slavery-across-the-world/ and http://www.maskmagazine.com/the-prisoner-issue/struggle/live-updates-prisoner-strike

Anti-fascist Action: This issue of ***Turning The Tide*** is going to press with the outcome of the duopoly's election



still unknown and in doubt. But those who imagine that the only fascist threat is represented by a Trump victory are deluding themselves. We must begin preparing and building now for a resolute struggle against fascism, which has always been rooted in the methods of rule and exploitation -- slave labor and genocidal repression -- that the Empire uses on colonized people. The hollowing out of democracy, of freedom of speech and of silence, of privacy and other human rights, is daily more manifest. We cannot be like the frog in the pot who never jumps out as it heats by degrees. The question, as posed clearly by LA's "Stop LAPD Spying Coalition" in reference to the architecture of surveillance and the strategies of counter-insurgency policing, is "Will we sleep or will we fight?" Only a fighting movement based on the principles of solidarity, self-determination and self-defense will have the capacity to withstand the fascism being built from above and below -- and to prevail!

TORCH AntiFa Network Conference Nov. 11-12, Denver

The third conference of the TORCH AntiFa Network, successor to the old Anti-Racist Action Network, will take place in November in Denver, Colorado, hosted by Rocky Mountain AntiFa. Members of chapters from the west coast, mountain west, Texas, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York/NJ, Florida, North Carolina and elsewhere are expected. As in past years, there will be a public activity, but most of the meetings will be private for vouched members of the network.

More details and applications will be posted on-line soon and some of the following web-sites. (For those interested, Denver will also be hosting the annual Anarchist Black Cross conference on supporting and freeing political prisoners in October. You can learn more about that at https://denverabc.wordpress.com/)

http://southsideantifa.blogspot.com/
https://torchantifa.org/
https://rockymountainantifa.blogspot.com/

Philly Police Officer Outed as White Supremacist tied to Blood and Honour

You may remember that during 2010-2012 there were several successful hacks of Neo-Nazi websites that led to the identification of dozens of Neo-Nazis.

One of the more interesting cases was Ian Hans Lichterman, a member of Blood and Honour, an international network of Neo-Nazi organizations started by the lead singer of Skrewdriver. It was discovered that Lichterman was also a Philly PD officer who had even been commended at a crime stoppers awards ceremony.

Shortly after the hack, Lichterman left the Philly PD and was working as a private security contractor (mercenary) in the middle east for some time, presumably using his connections from his time as a Marine. Recently, at the Philly Coalition for REAL Justice's march during the DNC, someone noticed one of the bike cops working the event had some shady tattoos. That cop has been identified as Ian Lichterman, back on duty in Philly.

One was a generic Nationalist tat of an AR-15 over an american flag with "For God and Country" written above it. The other was: Fatherland, in Germanic script over an eagle. That eagle design is called a partieadler. It is the eagle of Nazi Germany specifically. "Fatherland" is also a reference to Nazi rhetoric oft-used to describe Germany during the Third Reich. It's obvious that Ian Hans Lichterman is an extreme danger to the people of Philadelphia (especially People of Color, Muslims and Anti-Racists) as long as he has a gun and a badge. This information coming to light could lead to

Lichterman's removal, but one thing is certain: it will not change the fact that Police were developed specifically to protect White Supremacy and Patriarchy in this country. As long as Philly PD exist, their ranks will be full of the bigoted, power-hungry and corrupt, as well as a handful of fools and cowards who get the "good cop" label and serve to protect people like Lichterman.

For a world without Cops or Nazis, or Nazi Cops!

URGENT APPEAL

We need your financial support to continue sending the paper free to 1700 prisoners around CA and the US.

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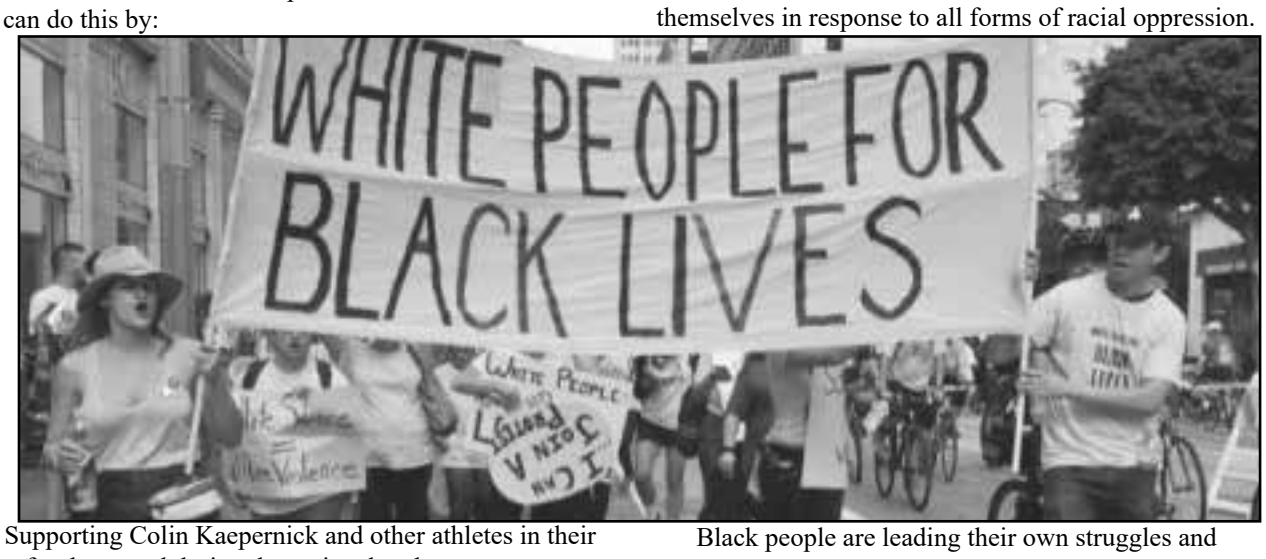
Postage alone for this issue comes to nearly $1000. We would like to increase the size and frequency of Turning the Tide, but we can only do it with your support. If you're a prisoner and can send stamps or get someone outside the walls to subsidize your subscription, please do so. If you work with an info shop or other zine or record distro, please consider ordering a bundle of TTT to distribute; $5 will get you 20 copies. And check out our 100X100 campaign elsewhere in this issue. If you live in L.A. or nearby, we can come to house meetings to speak and collect donations for the paper. Email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

White People 4 Black Lives: Solidarity Statement with #Charlotte #Tulsa #Columbus

Terence Crutcher in Tulsa OK, Keith Lamont Scott in Charlotte NC, and 13 year old Ty're King in Columbus OH are the three Black people most recently shot and killed by police notoriously and publicly, the latest examples of the tragedy of US racism. Their killings were senseless and preventable; yet, already, some people around the country are looking for a reason or explanation to ignore or minimize the significance of these ongoing acts of deadly violence. However, there is no justification.

In these moments, we need more than another letter or statement like this one, which really only echoes what Black folks have been saying for years, decades, and centuries. As white folks, we must start listening, acknowledging, responding, and acting with determination to solve the problems of white racism. We can do this by:



Supporting Colin Kaepernick and other athletes in their refusal to stand during the national anthem.

Challenging our friends when they fail to see constant violence against Black people as an expression of anything other than a social system that is racist and profoundly broken. We must call these friends and other white people we know into the movement to end police violence, racism, and white supremacy in the US, into the community of justice and transformation.

Reframing conversations in white communities from the need for "peace" --meaning quiet-- to a focus on systemic racism and state sanctioned violence.

Building relationships and networks with other white anti-racists and show up when allies are needed in this struggle - at rallies and actions to support the Black Lives Matter movement or helping with planning and providing needed resources.

Promoting and defending the voices of Black movements against state repression and media racism. We must help provide material and legal resources and court support for Black and other people facing such repression for standing up and speaking out against racist police murders.

Acknowledging and supporting our Black and brown friends when they tell us about their experiences of racism. We need to offer unquestioning support, without searching for reasons or explanations that only cast doubt on what is at this point an undeniable reality: racism is everyday and nationwide.

Working hard to overcome the day-to-day institutionalized and internalized racism in commerce, education, government, and belief systems that the police killings grow out of and enforce.

As the Los Angeles chapter of White People 4 Black Lives (WP4BL), we support Black people expressing themselves in response to all forms of racial oppression.

Black people are leading their own struggles and have their own political strategies. We must support these brave folks who are committed to a better vision for America. We commit ourselves and call on other white people to engage in critical self-reflection and examination about the meaning of race and whiteness in our lives. We also commit ourselves and urge other white people to take action and organize.

We need to challenge and change what is normal white culture in this country so that it is no longer anti-Black. Let's dismantle white supremacy.

White People 4 Black Lives (WP4BL) is a white anti-racist collective and activist project of the Alliance of White Anti-Racists Everywhere (AWARE-LA) and operates within a national network of white anti-racists called Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). WP4BL is rooted in acting in solidarity with Black Lives Matter: Los Angeles. If you are in Los Angeles and would like to get involved, send an email to whitepeople4racialjustice@gmail.com. **Join us Oct. 16 at CicLAvia.**

On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide & ARA-LA.

You can find archives of ***Turning the Tide*** at **www.antiracist.org** that go back about 10 years, In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as **facebook.com/tideturning**, and facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity. You can follow **@ara_losangeles** on Twitter, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at **ara-la.tumblr.com**.

Leader of the Black Riders Speaks on Police Terrorism after Dallas

by The People's Minister of Information JR (Aug. 2016)
http://sfbayview.com/2016/08/leader-of-the-black-riders-speaks-on-police-terrorism-after-dallas/

With police terrorism hitting the screens of televisions around the world on a weekly and sometimes daily basis due to cell-phone cameras, it is obvious why a strong Black media is needed to counteract the nationwide police psychological operation, aka public relations campaign, now being employed to make the police likable and to justify police-imposed torture and genocide on the Black community. By now we have all heard about the police murders of Micah Johnson in Dallas, Texas, and Gavin Long in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who both reportedly acted alone and days apart, in July of 2016, collectively killing a total of eight officers and injuring a dozen, before being executed themselves.

The war has escalated with members of the Black community fighting back in many different ways, and one of the tactics that law enforcement has employed on the media-psychological front has been to try to assassinate the character of the resistance, whether that is by demonizing the SF Bay View newspaper for publishing writings on Black August and political prisoners in a nationwide FBI bulletin, attempting to discredit Public Enemy's Minister of Information Professor Griff because he was in a picture with Micah Johnson, or trying to link the Black Riders Liberation Party, indirectly, to the events that went down in Dallas last July.

I was able to catch up with General T.A.C.O., aka Wolverine Shakur, of the Black Riders Liberation Party, to talk about what has been recently transpiring between the police and Black community and the Riders being linked to Dallas.

M.O.I. JR: What did you think about the recent murders of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile?

General T.A.C.O.: Well, after the brutal police terrorist murders of Alton Sterling in Louisiana and Philando Castile in Minnesota, we felt it was insane for the police to viciously commit another act of extreme police terrorism on live television, while the whole world was watching, mind you, by scandalously denying Micah's constitutional and human right to due process and a day in court.

They murdered him with a terminator robot drone like they do when they are at total war with another country overseas, except this was done domestically, right here, to a so-called citizen. This shows us Black people that the police have come down on us like an occupying army of soldiers who are intent on keeping us colonized and oppressed.

We must all think about how the police treated the white supremacist Dylann Roof. This racist dog murdered nine Black men and women in a church in South Carolina, and the police gave him a nice walk, a ride to Burger King, a bulletproof vest for his protection, and a day in court to be judged by a jury of his peers. It shows us that Black lives don't matter to racist America; if you're white, you get a slap on the wrist, and if you're Black, you get blown up with a killer robot.

They tell us that America is a democracy, but it's nothing but hypocrisy. It shows how the fascist police have become the judge, jury and executioner on the streets.

M.O.I. JR: Were you familiar with Micah Johnson, because it was reported in the mainstream news that you were Facebook friends?

G.T.: Our Facebook page is open to the public for anyone to like and follow us. Thousands of Black people have liked our Facebook page because they love and support the work we do to serve and defend Black people who have been oppressed by white supremacy, capitalism and international Amerikkkan imperialism.

The police have tried to link Micah to many different Black power groups, in order to come up with an excuse to attack the new Black power movement that's taking place, even though Micah clearly told them that he acted alone of his own free will. We only became aware of Micah once he was shown on the news.

We are extremely aware that Black people are growing more and more upset at being oppressed and colonized in a country that claims to be the leader of the so-called free world. We were also not aware of Larry Davis in New York, Christopher Dorner in Los Angeles and Lavelle Mixon in Oakland, who all responded in a similar fashion as Micah after being enraged because of numerous incidents caused by racist police terrorism.

We will not be manipulated by the racist media to slander him, like the media tried to slander other people who have been brutalized or murdered by police terrorism. The racist mass media always tries to dehumanize our people by highlighting their so-called criminal backgrounds.

The police have tried to link Micah to many different Black power groups, in order to come up with an excuse to attack the new Black power movement that's taking place, even though Micah clearly told them that he acted alone of his own free will.

When we get murdered by the police, they don't ask if we are a criminal, a preacher or a lawyer before they murder us; they only murder us because we are Black. The police only shoot first and ask questions later. We must struggle relentlessly to achieve justice and freedom from oppression.

M.O.I. JR: What do you have to say to our folks who listen to the mainstream media calling the Black Riders Liberation Party a "hate group"?

G.T.: We are not a hate group. We just love our people so much that it pushes us to have the heart and courage to risk our lives to help Black people achieve justice and freedom. We do hate the injustice of police terrorism that beats and murders our people with no accountability.

The Black Riders, New Generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense is a group that was created in Los Angeles in 1996. We have existed for 20 years pushing the line for our people's freedom.

Last year, we traveled from California to Texas and marched with the Huey P. Newton Gun Club through South by Southwest in Austin, openly carrying guns to the state capitol to raise Black consciousness and awareness of our Second Amendment constitutional right to bear arms after the police brutal murders of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Ezell Ford in Los Angeles, Eric Garner in New York and Clinton Allan in Texas.

The Black Riders has been organizing the Watch-A-Pig patrols for 20 years in which we police the police in California. For the past few years, we have been organizing the patrols nationwide to defend against police terrorism. While we can't lawfully carry loaded guns in California, we use video cameras, law booklets and other legal weapons to observe the police, at a legal distance, pulling over and detaining innocent Black people.

M.O.I. JR: Can you speak on what the Blacks Riders have been organizing around before and after these recent incidents of police terrorism?

G.T.: We are organizing numerous chapters, from the West Coast to the East Coast, and intensifying our Watch-A-Pig patrols around the racist Empire. We are also organizing to serve the needs of the Black community and to educate and politicize the masses to ride for freedom.

We educate the youth on the true history and teachings of the original Black Panther Party because we love and respect their theory, practice and continual sacrifices. We understand that all of our problems are interconnected, so we have also been organizing survival programs like Free Food Give-A-Ways, George Jackson Freedom Schools for Children, campaigns to bring Bloods and Crips into a ceasefire, a nationwide Prison Chapter, campaigns to free Political Prisoners, and we have helped send thousands of bottles of clean water to Black People in Michigan during the Flint poisoned water crisis.

Here is our manifesto, which is called the Black Commune Program. It is patterned in the spirit of the original Black Panther Party's 10 Point Platform and Program. It is what we want and believe. This is "Why We Ride":

We Ride for the Black Commune Program because it is what we want and believe. A Black commune is a Black community built on the belief of sharing and mutual cooperation between all people of that community, which brings forth unity. What is mine is yours and what is yours is mine, or "I am because we are; and because we are, therefore, I am." This is a belief system that Black people have held since the beginning of human existence. It allowed us to ride out any storm in perfect unity. This is the type of Black community that we ride for.

A. We Ride for total liberation. We Ride for power to take full control of the destiny of our Black community. We will not be liberated and free from oppression until we take full control of our destiny.

B. We Ride to put a stop to the thievery by capitalists of our Black community. We Ride because the racist government has stolen from us, and now we demand the overdue debt of 40 acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules was promised over 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of Black people. We will accept the payment in currency, which will be distributed to our communities. The Amerikkkan racist has taken part in the slaughter of over 50 million Black people; therefore, We Ride to make sure we receive complete payment.

C. We Ride for maximum and complete employment for our people. We Ride because the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every person employment or a guaranteed income. We Ride because we believe that if the Amerikkkan businessmen will not give full employment, then the means of production should be taken from the businessmen, placed in the community and communized. That way, the people of the community can organize and employ its entire people and give a high standard of living.

D. We Ride for freedom of speech. We Ride because we believe that all attacks on social redeeming hip hop rap songs should stop. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives a right to freedom of speech. During chattel slavery, the Black spirituals provided us songs with socially redeeming qualities. Today's hip hop raps provide us songs with socially redeeming qualities because conscious rappers help to guide us to liberation by outlining the horrible plight that Black people suffer in this new era of crisis.

E. We Ride because we demand the cases of all Black people held captive in the jails and prisons of Amerikkka be re-opened, re-investigated and re-tried by members of the Black community. ***Continued on p. 6; see "Black Commune Program"***

BLACK COMMUNE PROGRAM

Continued from previous page

We Ride because we feel that Black people living in incarceration have been tried unfairly by the U.S. Justice Department. We have been denied the right of trial by one's peers, resulting in guilty verdicts for an enormous amount of innocent Black people. We have been and are being tried by racist white juries that have no understanding of the "average reasoning man" of the Black community. It is time that these cases be re-opened and re-tried by Black people so that the innocence of Black inmates can be determined by a jury of their peers, as stated in the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. We as Black people shall then deal with our own people by granting freedom from incarceration to those whose re-trial has validated it, and deferring charges and sentences for those proven to be guilty by their peers. We want amnesty for all Political Prisoners.

F. We Ride for decent housing fit for shelter of human beings. We Ride because we believe that if the capitalist landlords will not give decent housing to our Black community, then the housing and land should be made into a commune so that our community, with government aid, can build and make housing for our people.

G. We Ride for education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent Amerikkkan society. We Ride for education that teaches us our true history and our role in present day society. We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If a man does not have knowledge of himself and his position in society and the world, then he has little chance to relate to anything else.

H. We Ride for an end to the drug problem. We Ride because we demand all the files of the Iran-Contra hearings and information regarding aid to the Contras in Nicaragua be released to the Black community. This should be done to determine the connection between the government and the influx of drugs into the Black community during the 1970s and 1980s. Black people neither own airplanes nor manufacturing plants needed to produce and distribute drugs. We believe that the best way to solve the drug problem is to find out how it is entering our community so we can put a stop to it.

I. We Ride for all Black people to be exempt from military service. We Ride because we believe that Black people should not be put in financial deprivation, causing them to be forced to fight in the military service to defend a racist government that does not protect us. We will not fight and kill other people of color in the world who, like Black people, are being victimized by the racist government of Amerikkka. We will protect ourselves from the force and violence of the racist military by whatever means necessary.

J. We Ride for an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of Black people. We Ride because we believe we can end police brutality in our Black community by organizing Black self-defense groups dedicated to defending our Black community from racist police oppression and brutality. The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives a right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all Black people should arm themselves for self-defense.

K. We Ride for full medical attention that should be given to all Black people. We Ride because we believe that Amerikkkan capitalist economics is to blame for the high rates of disease in the Black community. Black people suffering from life threatening ailments like AIDS should no longer be left to the mercy of low budget county hospitals. For whatever illness any member of the Black community suffers, the federal government is obligated to send them to medical institutions that provide the best treatment.

L. We Ride for an end to environmental racism and to stop the disruption of the earth's ecological balance. We Ride because we believe that Amerikkkan industrial production has and is currently creating terrible environmental side effects locally, nationally and internationally – especially in areas where Black people live. Industrial production causes pollution of air, land and water, which in turn lowers the life expectancy of people. If the racist Amerikkkan industrialists sought out technology to further industry then he must seek out technology to protect the environment. If a racist U.S. industrialist refuses to do so, then his industry should be taken and placed in the Black community so that we can protect the environment and our own communities.

M. We Ride for land, technology, bread, housing, education, clothing, medical care, justice, peace and an end to environmental racism. When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the government. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpation, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government and to provide new guards for their future security.

Black Power! All Power to the People! RED, BLACK AND GREEN 4 LIFE!

General T.A.C.O. (Taking All Capitalists Out) aka Wolverine Shakur,
Black Riders Liberation Party – New Generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense!

The People's Minister of Information JR Valrey is the author of several books including the upcoming "Halfway to a Hundred: Dispatches from the Black Panther Party." Tune to BlockReportRadio.com and reach him by email at blockreportradio@gmail.com.

Contact Info for the Black Riders

You can reach the Black Riders Liberation Party,
New Generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, at
PO Box 8297, Los Angeles CA 90008,
blackriders1996@gmail.com or by calling
601-557-2757 (BRLP), or on facebook,
Black-Riders-Liberation-Party. Join Now!

The Battle for Honest Journalism

By Manuel E. Yepe
A CubaNews translation. Edited by Walter Lippmann

Humanity lives in a world of capitalist supremacy where everything is ruled, in one way or another, by practices that favor capital above all other factors of the economy.

Globally, journalism has become -- for a long time now -- an essential element of power, along with the three classic powers of the State

We live in a world with all provisions set for the benefit of the owners of money: from electoral procedures and government structures to the smallest details of public and private relations. Everything has been oriented to the buying and selling mechanisms, so they favor the owning classes who have the wealth.

In Latin America, not even Cuba -- with its socialist revolution but also heir to countless of the methods, traditions and practices of capitalism -- escapes this global reality. Except that in Cuba, by virtue of the deep socialist revolution that began half a century ago, the role previously held by the dominant wealthy classes is now exercised by society as a whole.

In the case of Cuba, a political organization -- based on the most advanced revolutionary doctrine humanity has produced: Marxism -- as society's vanguard, protects its unity and ensures the legitimacy of truly democratic relations in all areas of society.

If we fail to consider that the mechanisms which freed Cuba from the evils of capitalism are still being created, tested, or waiting to be instituted to serve a social system that is also in the process of emerging fully, we are at risk of making serious mistakes. The Cuban revolution is not a copy of any other, and, like other models that proclaim themselves Socialist, Cuba has to find its own way.

Globally, journalism has become -- for a long time now -- an essential element of power, along with the three classic powers of the State (legislative, executive and judicial). Hence the media is often identified as the fourth power.

With this as its starting point, the ruling classes have succeeded in making the mainstream media (in print, radio, television and, more recently the Internet) a commodity and a tool aimed at convincing people and promoting compliance with capitalist ideas. They have done this with such effectiveness that they have succeeded in imposing their media dictatorship worldwide.

Advertising has become the lawful resource for those with money to defray the cost of operating the media and thus controlling it or exercising influence over its content proportional to the potential of their own economic and political interests.

Historically, big capitalists have not been satisfied with the ascendency they can get through their ads, and have moved to partial or whole ownership of the media, often using more or less publicly-identifiable fronts.

The ideological domination of oligarchies in Latin America – who often act as figureheads for the hegemonic domination of large US corporations -- has been acquiring such a high level on the continent that no one doubts that a social revolution is unfeasible without destroying the counter-revolutionary control of the media.

Confirmation of this conception is the fact that today in Latin America, the media under control of the ruling classes are playing the role that, in the last century, was played by the Latin American military hierarchy. The military once carried out the coups -- promoted by the US -- which plunged the region into the most nefarious situation of inequality, crime and misery.

However, according to recent experiences in the hemisphere, we could say that a coup may occur with the military or without it, with parliament or without it, with the media or without it, but always with the financial resources that move the wheels.

Although the laws of technological development tend to make the media increasingly social, the owners of capital have managed to always put communications and the media in a place outside the control of centers of democratic power. Thus, they facilitate their control by the owners of financial resources: the capitalists.

The Cuban experience --with its virtues and its many flaws that today are hotly debated by journalists in the island-- shows that the social ownership of communications and the media with the widest popular participation, in a society with social ownership of the major means of production and distribution, opens the possibility of the use and effective enjoyment of these media by the majority, and safeguards it from the insatiable greed of capital. Other mechanisms could be valid, but are yet to be tested and confirmed by practice.

Courage Against Racism, Nov. 19, 6-9 PM, Free All Political Prisoners: OBAMA: Release Peltier, Oscar Lopez, Mutulu Shakur, Chelsea Manning!

Whatever the outcome of the November election, there will be a small window of opportunity to force Obama to take action and his power of executive clemency or pardon to free numerous political prisoners in federal custody. Obama intends to use the "lame duck" session of Congress and his own waning months of his presidency to push through the Trans-Pacific Partnership, opposed by both Clinton and Trump and the majority of people in the US. Instead of that undemocratic measure feeding the beast of corporate globalization, we must make it unavoidable for Obama to overturn the unjust incarceration of Native American, Puerto Rican and Black freedom fighters targeted by COINTELPRO, of whistleblowers and war resisters. Obama has about 100 days left in office. Call the White House every day and demand he free Peltier, Lopez Rivera, Shakur, Manning and Hammond, and pardon Edward Snowden: 202-456-1111.

Leonard Peltier (see page 1) has been unjustly imprisoned more than 40 years for defending indigenous sovereignty and Native peoples' lives against US-organized tribal goon squads and militarized FBI repression. When Bill Clinton contemplated freeing him, as he had promised, active FBI agents staged a public protest at the White House. Internationally recognized as a prisoner of conscience, he must be freed. See: http://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info/

Oscar Lopez Rivera is a Puerto Rican independentista, a Vietnam vet convicted of the "thought crime" of seditious conspiracy -- attempting to overthrow the US government in Puerto Rico, a charge also brought against the fabled Puerto Rican patriot Don Pedro Albizu Campos in the 50s. He has served almost 35 years in prison, almost half his life, the longest-held Puerto Rican political prisoner in US custody. Boricuas are united in demanding his release and in opposition to the PROMESA junta Obama and Congress imposed on Puerto Rico that exposes the colonial realities Lopez opposes. See: http://boricuahumanrights.org/

Dr. Mutulu Shakur was supposed to have been paroled already yet remains in federal prison. A founder of the Black Acupuncture Anasthesia Association of North America, a therapist who helped Black people de-tox from heroin and other addictive drugs, and stepfather of Tupac Shakur, Mutulu was accused of helping Assata Shakur escape from unjust custody. He has pushed for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to expose the crimes of COINTELPRO against the Black community and freedom struggle and other peoples movements. See: http://mutulushakur.com/site/

Chelsea Manning (then known as Bradley) was a private convicted of the unauthorized release of classified information that exposed US war crimes. She should have been thanked for upholding the international law embodied in the Nuremberg Tribunals, but instead was tried and imprisoned by a kangaroo military court, subjected to torture and isolation inside military and federal prisons, and driven to attempted suicide, for which she has been subjected to further penalties and punishment. See: https://www.chelseamanning.org/

Jeremy Hammond is a member of the hacktivist network Anonymous and a gifted computer programmer. He's currently spending a decade in prison, often in solitary, for allegedly disclosing information about the private intelligence firm Strategic Forecasting, Inc. (Stratfor), revealing they'd been spying on human rights defenders at the behest of corporations and governments. WikiLeaks published these files in partnership with 29 media organisations worldwide as the Global Intelligence Files. See: https://freejeremy.net/

Edward Snowden, who exposed NSA spying, faces espionage charges, and should be pardoned by Obama and allowed to return home to the US.

JOIN US SATURDAY, NOV. 19
6-9:00 PM
PEACE CENTER, 3916 S. Sepulveda, 90230
for a panel of Black, Native, Puerto Rican and other activists speaking about these cases and the need to free all political prisoners.

Editor's Note: **TTT** *is printing here information about the peace processes in Colombia and the Philippines, two countries where protracted revolutionary armed struggles have been waged for decades, in the interests of promoting discussion about strategies for revolutionary social transformation today and the balance of forces in the world. Why is it that unlike the period from WWII-2000, there are few remaining secular revolutionary armed struggles? Responses are welcome.*

All-Women FARC Summit Discusses Equality in Colombia Peace Deal

http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/All-Women-FARC-Summit-Discusses-Equality-in-Peace-Deal-20160920-0022.html

Women of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and other organizations launched the 2nd National Women and Peace Summit to promote women's participation in the peace deal reached with the Colombian government. According to a statement from the United Nations, 500 women who represent 700 organizations in the country are meeting in the capital of Bogota until Sept. 21.

The meeting has brought together feminists, Indigenous women, campesinas, Afro-Colombians, academics, LGBTIs, youth, journalists and artists. Among the topics that the group will discuss are political representation, participation in post-conflict programs for the use of land, judicial guarantees, and protection against sexual violence.

The FARC-EP is also in the midst of its 10th National Guerilla Conference this week, where the rebel group will discuss the peace agreement reached with the government of President Juan Manuel Santos.

The Women and Peace Summit is part of the work organized by the Subcommission

Women fighters of the FARC in Colombia

on Gender, whose representatives also participated in the peace talks in Havana, Cuba. The talks lasted almost four years, and included the input of the group to assure the implementation of the peace deal.

The final peace deal was signed on Sept. 26 in Cartagena de Indias, but the accords will need to be put to a popular vote on Oct. 2. If "yes" wins, the agreement could end the over five-decades-long conflict that has killed over 220,000 people and displaced some 6.3 million others.

Note: Continued struggle will be needed by Afro-Colombians, indigenous and others to protect their lands, cultures and human rights. Colombian citizens in the US who voted in Colombian elections here can vote in the October 2 Plebiscite at a Colombian consulate.

State of the Black World Conference

http://sobwc.ibw21.org/police-killings-war-on-drugs-mass-incarceration-sobwc-iv/

Recent police killings of Black people in Tulsa, Charlotte and Columbus, Ohio continue to contribute to the collective trauma of people of African descent, Black people in this country. Nearly a half century after Newark erupted in rebellion, the State of the Black World Conference IV will convene there Nov. 16-20 -- welcomed by Mayor Ras Baraka, son of poet, playwright and activist Amiri Baraka. Nearly a half century after the Kerner Commission issued its Report noting that virtually every insurrection had been precipitated by a police killing or misconduct, the world witnessed Charlotte explode against the continuous assaults on Black lives. When is enough, enough?

Of necessity, this question will be front and center at SOBWC IV. Sessions will be devoted to ending the War on Drugs, advancing strategies for police accountability, dismantling the prison industrial complex and creating pathways for successful reentry of hundreds of thousands of formerly incarcerated persons.

Speakers include Ron Hampton, former Exec. Dir., National Black Police Association; Brandi Fisher, Exec. Dir., Alliance for Police Accountability, Pittsburgh; Tamika Mallory, Co-Chair, Justice League, NYC; Atty. Andrea James, Exec. Dir., Families for Justice and Healing, Boston; Deborah Peterson Small, Exec. Dir., Break the Chains, Berkeley; Tyrone Parker, Exec. Dir., Alliance of Concerned Men, Washington, DC. Atty. Nkechi Taifa, Senior Policy Analyst, Open Society Foundations, will serve as Moderator.

As Black people absorb the pain of yet another series of police killings, leaders from Charlotte joined a growing national crescendo calling for the use of economic sanctions/boycotts to, in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, "redistribute the pain" to achieve racial, social and economic justice. It's Nation Time …. Again: Racial Healing and Collaboration for Black Empowerment!

Peace Talks in the Philippines

http://altermidya.net/want-peace-cant-understand-talk-essential-z/

More and more Filipinos are now looking forward to prospects of peace between the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front of the Philippines (CPP-NPA-NDFP) and the government of the Philippines (GPH).

The media plays an important role in making the public understand the ongoing peace talks. However, reportage of substantial aspects of the peace talks can be lacking, even erroneous. This list breaks down key peace talks-related concepts, in an attempt to jumpstart a deeper understanding of this significant development that speaks a lot about the Filipino people's clamor—and struggle—for change.

A – ARMED CONFLICT

Both sides are engaged in armed conflict. Armed struggle is an integral part of the revolution that groups under the NDFP are waging since 1969. The two conflicting sides, the NDFP and GPH, have agreed to hold peace negotiations to address the roots of armed conflict and lay the grounds for a just and lasting peace.

B – BELLIGERENCY VS. INSURGENCY

The NDFP considers itself a belligerent, and not an insurgent force. Belligerency is a status between two sovereign states engaged in war. Insurgency, meanwhile, is often used to describe a group's "lawlessness." Rebel forces can be recognized as belligerents. Once the status of belligerency is established between two or more states, their relations are determined and governed by international laws of war. Past signed agreements between the GPH and NDFP also affirmed the status of the NDFP as a co-belligerent in the civil war.

C – CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

The Hague Joint Declaration, the agreed framework of the GPH-NDFP peace talks, puts the "end of hostilities" only after social, economic, and political issues at the root of the armed conflict have been addressed. Ever since, the NDFP had been negotiating for peace – or the Cessation of Hostilities and Disposition of Forces – based on agreements on these issues (also called the "substantive agenda" of the peace talks). This differentiates it from capitulation, which simply means the surrender of revolutionary forces. A ceasefire, meanwhile, is defined in modern dictionaries as "an

Women fighters of the NPA in the Philippines

agreement to stop fighting a war for a period of time so that a permanent agreement can be made to end the war." Clearly, it neither means a permanent cessation nor capitulation. The NDFP has in past negotiations scored the GPH for demanding a ceasefire as a "precondition" to the resumption of peace talks.

D – DEMOCRATIC REFORMS

During the opening of the formal talks on August 22, NDFP chief political consultant Jose Maria Sison said that the people can benefit from "bourgeois democratic reforms" in the next six years if the negotiations are successful. These democratic reforms, he said, include national sovereignty and territorial integrity; the democratic empowerment of the working people, social justice, economic development through national industrialization and land reform; expanded free public education, etc.

E – ECONOMIC REFORMS

Socio-economic reforms – often referred to as the "meat" of the negotiations – are up next on the substantive agenda of the peace talks. These reforms are to be encapsulated in the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms (CASER). In the ongoing talks, both sides have agreed to exert their best effort to finish CASER in six months starting September. (more online, F-Z)

Research by Ilang-Ilang Quijano and Rhea Padilla